



## TIDINGS

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Stop Those Sneaky Leaks

*Tidings* Tips:  
'Utilize the Beach'

*"By caulking windows, we keep the cold air inside during the summer and the heat inside during the winter – and that's a big, big thing."* – Aaron Arrants



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*Ride the Green Wave*

"My name is Aaron Arrants, a Beaches Energy customer in Neptune Beach. I checked out some helpful tips at the web site, like recaulking seals around windows, checking the door weatherstripping, using CFLs, and unplugging what we're not using. I say just be on top of things. Create a plan, and make it fun. If we save energy, we are saving the planet . . . it's bigger than ourselves."

# Sealing Windows and Doors

It's common sense to close windows and doors when the AC or heat is running. After all, 50 percent of your home energy expense is cooling and heating. But what if your conditioned air is leaking out of *closed* windows and doors? The solution is also common sense (and easy): seal with caulk and weatherstripping.

**Finding Leaks.** Some air leaks in external windows and doors you can see or feel (don't forget the entries into the attic and garage). You're losing air if you can remove a piece of paper from the edge of a closed door or window. For other leaks, hire a professional.

**Caulking.** Use caulk to seal cracks and joints in window and door frames, as well as the joints between a frame and wall. Be sure to buy the right caulk for each surface, and read all directions. For best results, clean the surfaces thoroughly, remove old caulk, and apply on a dry day.

**Weatherstripping.** To seal the openings of doors and windows, you need weatherstripping or door sweeps (between the threshold and bottom of a door). Like caulk, weatherstripping comes in different types and materials. Get help at the store to choose the appropriate type and material. Clean the surfaces well, install, and enjoy the energy savings of a snug house.



## Tidings Tips: Sunshine State Solutions

This month's featured customer, Aaron Arrants, wisely advises "utilizing the beach as much as you can." He's talking about taking advantage of our often temperate weather to save energy.

On balmy spring and fall days, turn off the AC or heat and open windows and doors that have screens.

Increase the effect by turning on ceiling fans (when you're in the room) or pulling in refreshing air with a window fan.

Hang washed clothes on a line or drying rack instead of using the dryer, especially for lighter clothing. A bonus is that air-dried clothes last longer.

Take advantage of the warmth of winter sunlight by opening drapes and tilting blinds down. (Of course in summer's intense heat, reverse the actions!)

Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours		
	April	May
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$73.57	\$73.57
Power cost adjustment	\$59.84	\$59.84
Total	\$137.91	\$137.91