



TIDINGS

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ENERGY MYTH



BEACHES | ENERGY
SERVICES

Ride the Green Wave

ENERGY MYTH #9:

Duct tape is good for sealing ducts.

Duct tape has many great uses, but despite the name, it's not good for sealing ducts. A leaky air duct system could send your energy bill through the roof. In fact, seven out of ten homes have leaks in their air ducts that can increase energy costs. Seal your ductwork using mastic duct sealant or a combination of mastic and mesh, pressure-sensitive foil tape. Sealing the leaks in the ductwork and around the air handler can significantly lower energy use. And remember: there's a rebate for that. To save both energy and money by sealing ductwork, call us or visit beachesenergy.com.



Tidings Tips: Ten Tips for Every Day

1. Close drapes and blinds to keep out sun.
2. Use ceiling fans and turn up the thermostat two degrees. Remember that fans cool you, not the room; switch them off when you leave.
3. Set your thermostat at 78° or 80° when home and five degrees higher when you're away.
4. Cook and reheat food with a microwave.
5. Replace incandescent lights with more efficient, cooler CFLs.
6. Turn off lights when you leave a room.
7. Turn off electronics and chargers when not in use (put them on a power strip).
8. Wash and rinse laundry in cold water.
9. Rinse plates, if necessary, with cold water before putting in dishwasher.
10. Let the dishes air dry (no drying cycle).



Electric price for 1,000 kilowatt-hours

	August	September
Base charge, residential	\$4.50	\$4.50
KWH base charge	\$74.57	\$74.57
Power cost adjustment	\$58.84	\$58.84
Total	\$137.91	\$137.91

Hurricane Tips A-to-Z

Does planning for a hurricane seem overwhelming? Florida's experts have stepped up for you. **Remarkable planning and information resources are available, customized to your family, location, special needs, and pets.** Facts, survival checklists, and safety essentials are online or in print: you just have to reach out and get them.



Two excellent resources are **beachesenergy.com** and **floridadisaster.org** (official state site). If you don't have online access, ask for printed materials from the emergency department for Duval County (904-630-2472) or St. Johns County (904-824-5550).

Both online sources give you printable checklists, maps, and contacts. On each website you'll find important steps to take before, during, and after a storm. For instance, have you thought of . . .

- How much water (drinking, cooking, and hygiene) you need for three days? What kind of food? Planning for prescription medicines?
- Can you receive communication without electricity (a battery or crank radio, for example)?
- Do family members know how to shut off electricity, gas, and water if the house floods or you evacuate?
- What is your evacuation route? Where are shelters, and which allow pets?
- What essential documents should you take (medical, property, insurance, etc.)?
- Do you have a family meeting place or out-of-area contact person?
- Do you have a resident re-entry pass?
- Do you have enough cash on hand? ATMs and banks may not be accessible.

Armed with the checklists and facts, you can be more prepared for hurricane season. You'll meet it with a plan, not panic.

