

NorVal

News

MAY 2024



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Power Up Your Lawn Care with Electric Equipment:

The landscape of lawn and garden care is evolving, and electric equipment is at the forefront of this change. While electric lawn tools aren't new, advancements in technology and more options mean prices have become more competitive, making electric equipment an accessible option for many consumers.

Benefits of Electric Equipment:

Electric lawnmowers have come a long way since the days of extension cords tethering you to an outlet. Battery-powered mowers offer the same freedom of movement as gas-powered models but with reduced noise and maintenance.

Battery life was once a major drawback to making the switch to electric lawn tools. But today's growing demand for electric equipment has resulted in major advancements for lithium-ion batteries, making them more reliable, cost-effective and efficient. For most consumers, electric lawn tools can get the job done just as well as gas-powered models.

Many electric mowers offer push-button starts, and because they are lighter, they are easier to maneuver around tight turns. Improved batteries provide longer run times to tackle larger spaces. Like their gas-powered counterparts, electric mowers are available in push, self-propelled/walk-behind and riding models and there's no need to refill gas cans or change oil and air filters, resulting in less hassle and maintenance.

Like mowers, electric blowers, string trimmers

and chainsaws have fewer moving parts, require minimal maintenance and are quieter. Because electric tools are generally lighter in weight, they're also more ergonomic and easier to maneuver. This feature is especially handy for projects that require tools like chainsaws for precise work.

Choose Electric Equipment to Meet Your Needs:

Electric lawn tools have some limitations, so the size and terrain of your outdoor space are important considerations when purchasing new equipment. When comparing gas-powered and electric mowers, consider the torque rating--this is the driving force behind a blade's rotation. On average, electric lawnmowers generate less torque than gas mowers. If you have a challenging outdoor space that includes overgrown brush, tall grass, or hills and dips, torque is a key factor. Choosing the right type and size mower is particularly important for spaces larger than half an acre. If you have a large property, consider purchasing an extra battery to ensure uninterrupted workflow.

Many manufacturers offer interchangeable batteries and chargers, providing flexibility and convenience. Choosing a single brand can ensure charging compatibility across your lawn tools and streamline charging.

While both gas and electric lawn tools can get the job done, electric equipment generally requires less maintenance, is less expensive to operate and is more kind to the environment.

Happy
Memorial Day!

NORVAL ELECTRIC
WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, MAY 27TH



If you are interested in enrolling in Budget Billing, please call the office during the month of May for details and to get enrolled.

NICK'S NOTES

NICK DULANEY - LINE SUPERINTENDENT

With the arrival of Spring and Summer, it's crucial to prioritize safety measures to safeguard yourself and your family from hazards like downed wires, broken poles, and trees/branches in contact with energized overhead conductors. A key safety tip to bear in mind is the meaning of STEP POTENTIAL. Step Potential refers to the voltage variance between a person's two feet when standing near an energized, grounded object such as a power line. This hidden danger can prove fatal for anyone near a downed power line. Here are a few additional important reminders:

- Do not assume that a downed power line is safe simply because it is on the ground or it is not sparking.
- Do not assume that all coated, weatherproof or insulated wire is just telephone, television or fiber-optic cables.
- Low-hanging wires still have voltage potential even if they are not touching the ground, so do not touch them. Everything is energized until tested to be de-energized.
- Never go near a downed or fallen electric power line. Always assume that it is energized. Touching it could be fatal.
- Electricity can spread outward through the ground in a circular shape form at the point of contact. As you move away from the center, large differences in voltages can be created.
- Never drive over downed power lines. Assume the wires are energized and even if they are not, the downed power lines can still become entangled in your equipment or vehicle.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines when they are playing outdoors. Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year, but equally important keeping our community safe around electricity.

5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

1. **Raise your thermostat.**

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

2. **Install window coverings**

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

3. **Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping** around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

4. **Run ceiling fans** for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.

5. **Lower your water heater thermostat** to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



Source: Dept. of Energy

Grow Your Summer Energy Savings

One of our favorite things about summer is the opportunity for fresh, homegrown food, whether it's shopping at the local farmers' market or sharing the abundance of garden tomatoes with a neighbor. It's amazing how just a few seeds, some fertilizer and water can turn into a bounty.

When we think about energy efficiency, we think about that bounty of food and how with just a few simple actions, you can use less electricity and reap the rewards of energy savings.

You don't need to be a farmer or botanist to know that plants need water--just like you don't have to be a lineworker or engineer to know that adjusting the thermostat or turning off lights can reduce your monthly electric bill. In fact, if you read NorVal Electric's publications regularly and follow us on Facebook, you know there are a lot of things you can do at home to save electricity and money.

Summer months bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. But why? Cooling your home accounts for a large portion of your monthly energy use and the hotter it gets, the harder (and longer) your air conditioner works to keep you cool.

There are several ways you can manage energy use at home, and above, we are providing a few tips that can help grow your summer energy savings.

If you would like more information, you may call our office or visit our website and Facebook page.



May is Electrical Safety Month

Safety Starts with You!

#ElectricalSafetyMonth



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.