

News You Can Use

Compliments of The Stoneman Group
RE/MAX Kelowna

How to Discover if You Can Save More Energy at Home

Before you can start saving energy at home, you need to know where you're wasting energy right now. Here's how to do your own "energy audit."

Look for air leaks: You can save 5-30% in energy costs by reducing drafts. So look for gaps around pipes and wires, baseboards, edges of flooring, electrical outlets, window frames, weather stripping on doors, attic hatches, and wall- or window-mounted air conditioners. Also check for gaps on the outside of your home, particularly at exterior corners where siding and chimneys meet, and areas where the foundation and the bottoms of exterior bricks or siding meet. Check as well for cracks and holes in mortar, foundation, and siding.

Check your insulation: If your house was built some time ago, the level of insulation might not meet today's standards. Check the amount of insulation in your attic, and find out if openings for items such as pipes, ductwork, and chimneys are sealed. Also look for a vapor barrier underneath the insulation in the attic.

Heating and cooling equipment: Make sure your heating and air-conditioning systems are well maintained and that filters are replaced regularly. A professional should check your system at least once every year.

Lighting: It's said that 10% of your power bill is due to lighting. Check your bulbs to see if they need to be as bright as they are, and consider replacing them with compact-fluorescent lighting.

Fascinating Facts about September

- The Liberty Bell arrived in Philadelphia on September 1, 1752.
- The Viking 2 spacecraft landed on Mars on September 3, 1976.
- Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat began the Camp David peace process on September 5, 1978.
- The Russian city of Leningrad became St. Petersburg once again on September 6, 1991.
- "Truth or Consequences" first appeared on television on September 7, 1950.
- "Monty Python's Flying Circus" recorded its first episode on September 7, 1969.
- Google was founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin on September 7, 1998.
- Nintendo released Super Mario Bros. on September 13, 1985.
- General Motors was founded on September 16, 1908.
- The first episode of "M*A*S*H" premiered on September 17, 1972.
- The Concorde made its first non-stop transatlantic flight on September 26, 1973.
- William the Conqueror invaded England on September 29, 1066.

Do You Know Someone Still Stuck in the Rental Rut?

If you happen to know anyone that might benefit from our **FREE First Time Buyers Guide**, please do them a favour and direct them to the following link:

www.TheStonemanGroup.com/FirstTimeBuyer.htm

This informative guide outlines the benefits and the process of buying your own home in easy to understand, step by step detail. It contains all of the information their landlord hopes they never find out!

We have walked many first time buyers through the home buying process. From helping them arrange their financing, to searching properties, drafting contracts, negotiating the deal, and coordinating their visit to the lawyer's office to complete the sale. We will be there to help them through every step of the way, showing them how to put that wasted rent money back into their own pocket, instead of someone else's!



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Vital Ideas to Make Moving as Easy as Possible

Moving is one of life's most stressful events. So here's a quick guide to make it as painless as possible.

Decide what not to pack

Now's a good time to de-clutter your life by deciding which items you don't want to take with you. Decide what you want to give away, throw away, or sell.

Get packing materials

If you're not using a professional mover, you'll need to get some packing materials. Bookstores often have strong boxes they don't want any more — call on the day of a delivery to ask for them.

Draw a floor plan — and use labels

Create a plan of your new home that you can use as a guide throughout the moving process. Label each of your boxes according to this plan, and clearly list what is in each of the boxes.

What to pack first

Pack things you don't need often first. Books, out-of-season clothes, and memorabilia make good candidates to go into boxes right away.

Pack "essentials" boxes

Mark some boxes as "essentials" and put in them the things you need on your first night in your new home. Then you won't waste time (and valuable energy) trying to find important things.

Food...and plants

Food, particularly from the freezer, isn't easily stored, so try to use it up. Put plants in big plastic bags to avoid dirt spilling.

If you are planning on selling your home, getting a head start on the packing will not only make the move itself easier, de-cluttering your home will typically help your house sell quicker.

The Stoneman Group

Wondering How Much Your Home is Worth?

If you're wondering what's happening to prices in your area, or you're thinking about selling your home, we'll be able to help.

Just give our office a call for a no-fuss, professional evaluation.

We won't try to push you into listing with us or waste your time.

We'll just give you the honest facts about your home and its value.

Just call or text us at 250-864-4455 to arrange an appointment.

Sudoku Puzzle

	3	4	9				8	
		1		2	4			
5	7	2		8				
		5			9	8		
1								5
		8	5			7		
				9		2	5	6
			7	1		3		
	6				5	9	1	

The objective is to fill a 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the digits 1-9

Kelowna Fun Fact

Fruit production is a hallmark of the Okanagan Valley today, but the industry began with difficulty. Commercial orcharding of apples was first tried there in 1892, but a series of setbacks prevented the major success of commercial fruit crops until the 1920s.

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Thanks for reading! If you'd like to tell us what you think about this newsletter, or if you're thinking of buying or selling real estate, do get in touch.

