

Power Pointz

news from
Garland Light & Power Co.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Cheap Electronic Chargers Spell Trouble

The chargers that came with our phone, digital camera or other electronics seem to disappear. As a solution, many people reach for the low-cost, generic plug-in USB chargers and charging cables found in the sea of impulse items that flank the checkout line at your favorite drug, convenience or big box store. They're also popular items on numerous online shopping sites and cheaper than dishing out money to replace them with their original makers versions.

"It can save money and it's so convenient," you rationalize. Without much more thought, you place them in the virtual cart or on the check-out counter.

Inexpensive charging components may be one area you don't want to cut corners for a variety of reasons. Amazon recalled 26,000 Amazon Basics portable lithium-ion battery chargers and power banks after the massive online retailer learned the units can overheat and ignite, causing fire and burn hazards. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the products were sold between December 2014 and July 2017.

Along with being a potential fire hazard, using cheaply made charging components and devices can cause electrocution. Dangers aside, they may cost you more in the long run since they can cause damage to whatever's on the other end of the cable. To keep safe around electrical devices and charging gear, Safe Electricity recommends the following:

- Do not leave items that are charging unattended.
- Always keep charging items away from flammable objects, especially bedding, and do not take them to bed with you. Tell kids and teens to never place a charging device under their pillow. The heat generated cannot dissipate and the charger will become hotter and hotter. This could lead to the pillow or bed catching fire.
- Do not touch electronic devices with wet hands or while standing in water.
- Make sure charging components are certified by a reputable third-party testing laboratory.
- Only buy product-approved chargers and cables. Using cheaper devices can cause damage to the USB charge chip. Although it's tempting to save money, this can have a lasting impact on how quickly and effectively your device charges in the future.

The bottom line: Don't buy charging equipment with prices that seem too good to be true or from companies you have never heard of. Even if you have heard of the company, be leery of fakes.

Welcome to our March newsletter. As we begin looking forward to Spring and the new beginnings associated with this time of year, your cooperative staff is busy planning ahead for another successful year.

One of the changes taking place in 2019 is the company logo. We were actually using two different logos for our signage, apparel, letterhead, and business cards. Because company logos are important when it comes to business recognition in the community, we felt it was important to design one new logo that would be colorful and easily identified as Garland Light and Power Co.'s. The original sketch began with our own Director, Spencer George, and with Tri-State's assistance, developed into a modern logo that captures our state pride by using Wyoming colors and our home-based feeling by featuring Heart Mountain.



We hope you like this new look, but rest assured the company is the same. Our appearance may have changed, but the same dedicated staff is still committed to providing you great customer service and reliable power.

Don't forget to Like us on Facebook and check out SmartHub on our website. It only takes a few minutes to sign up for this Free, Safe, and Secure service that enables you to view your usage, receive bills electronically, and pay bills by check, debit card, or credit card.

No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.
Hal Borland



Clean your keyboard the right way

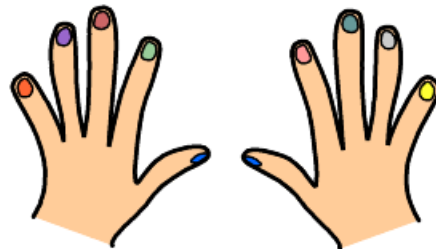
If you ask the Internet how to clean your computer's keyboard, it just might tell you to put it in the dishwasher. Don't do that!

It will come out sparkling clean, all right, but who knows how long it will last after that.

Still you should thoroughly clean your keyboards every now and then. It turns out that they're dirtier than a toilet seat.

A British researcher found all kinds of nasty stuff, like E. coli and staph, on the keyboards he tested for bacteria and microbes, more than he found when he tested a toilet seat from the same building, used by the same people. And it turns out that the best way to keep your keyboard clean is to wash your hands a lot.

1. Unplug your keyboard.
2. Pick up the keyboard, turn it upside down and gently shake it. That will loosen crumbs, hair and other debris that might have fallen between the keys.
3. Invest in a can of compressed air, and spray it in between the keys.
4. Using a Q-tip lightly dipped into rubbing alcohol, swab the surfaces you can reach between and around the keys. Don't moisten the Q-tip to the point of dripping; you don't want any liquid to seep into the circuitry beneath the keys.
5. Use a cloth lightly coated with rubbing alcohol to clean the keys themselves and the rest of the keyboard.
6. Slide a stiff business card between the keys, like you would swipe a key card in a motel room door. That will pick up hair and dust that might have settled into the crevices between the keys.
7. If you spill something or drop crumbs onto your keyboard, clean it up right away. Like a stove, a keyboard is harder to clean when food or liquids sit for a while.



Do this once a month, and your keyboard will be a less likely breeding ground for germs.

Happy
Easter
April 21st



Summer Hours

Garland Light & Power is changing to a 4/10 work week from April 29 to Oct 7

Hours of operation will be:
7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday
Closed on Fridays

Standby crews will be available from Friday through Sunday for outage situations by calling:
754-2881

Don't forget to
LIKE us on



When you see our lineman working, please slow down. They are working hard to keep your lights on and we want to keep them safe. Thank you.

