

Getting in Hot Water



James Dulley
www.dulley.com

Many homeowners who drink a lot of coffee and hot beverages are considering installing hot water dispensers in their kitchens. If you think about it, you will realize how many times you really do use hot water throughout the day. A hot beverage is only one use. Hot water is also often run over a fresh jar so the top opens easier. Other uses are warming a baby food jar or

an ice cream scoop, cleaning a cheese grate, etc.

Using hot water from the kitchen faucet is very wasteful of both water and energy. Depending upon how far your kitchen faucet is from the water heater, each time you need it, you may have to run more than a gallon of water down the drain until the hot water finally reaches the faucet. This wasted water is replaced by cold incoming water from a water main or well that is well below ambient room temperature.

After you turn the hot water faucet off, the hot water pipe is still full of hot water. During the winter, this slowly cools off and helps heat your house to some extent so it is not a total loss. Keep in mind, however, an electric water heater is only about one-third as efficient as a heat pump. During the summer, the hot water in the pipe creates a double cost because it is additional heat that your air conditioner must remove from your house.

A hot water dispenser is a tiny tank-type electric water heater located beneath your sink with a spout near the faucet. These dispensers typically have a heavily insulated one-half-gallon water tank located under the sink. Combining the hot water in the tank with the output of the heating element, it produces enough hot water for about 50 cups per hour. Most have optional built-in water filters. Small countertop models that use bottled water and include a chiller are also available. These countertop models are usually rented from a drinking water company.

Hot water dispensers are convenient to use and easy to install. They have adjustable temperature settings, often from 140 degrees for cleaning and warming tasks to 190 degrees for coffee or tea. There generally is a temperature adjustment knob on the tank unit under the sink. They operate on standard 120-volt house

power, so they do not require special wiring.

Whether or not one will save electricity overall depends upon your hot water usage habits. Most hot water dispensers have 700 to 800 watt heating elements. They also operate on a thermostat so the electric heating elements are on only when needed. As with any water heating device, set its temperature only as high as you need it. A lower setting requires less electricity to keep the tank warm.

If you do not mind waiting for a microwave oven to heat water each time you want coffee or tea and if you do not otherwise use much hot water, installing a hot water dispenser will likely increase your utility bills. For example, being a single man who does not drink coffee, I have not installed one in my own home. On the other hand, if you use hot water often from the faucet and heat water on the stove, using a hot water dispenser can lower your utility bills.

Another time and money-saving advantage of a hot water dispenser is for cooking. Most cooking experts do not recommend using hot water from the faucet for starting rice or other foods. The reason is hot water standing and running through the pipes in a house is more likely to pick up chemicals or contaminants than is cold water. Also, the hot water from the faucet is probably only in the 120 degree range.

If you think about it, you will realize how many times you really do use hot water throughout the day.

With the hot water dispenser tank located directly under the sink, picking up contaminants is not a problem because all the plumbing from the tank to the spout is included with the kit. When you plan to steam or boil foods, you can start with 190-degree hot water from the dispenser. This will reduce the stove-top cooking time of many foods and will save energy.

The following companies offer hot water dispensers: Anaheim Manufacturing, (800) 854-3229, www.amaheimmfg.com; Elkay, (603) 574-8484, www.elkay.com; Franke, (800) 626-5771, www.frankesd.com; In-Sink-Erator, (800) 558-5700, www.insinkerator.com; and Tri Palm International, (800) 646-2747, www.oasiswatercoolers.com.

Send inquiries to James Dulley, Cooperative Connections, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244



Energy Safety Association
of South Dakota

**May Is
Electrical Safety Month.**

Touchstone Energy® Scholars to be Recognized May 6

Thirty-six top high school seniors will be recognized during the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Scholar of the Year Banquet and have a chance at winning a \$1,000 scholarship. Each of the invited students was recognized as a “Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Scholar of the Week” during the 2005-2006 school year.

The Scholar of the Year Banquet will be held May 6 at Dakota State University in Madison, S.D. DSU President Douglas Knowlton will be the keynote speaker. The name of one of the scholars who attends the event will be drawn at random as the “Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Scholar of the Year” and receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Electric cooperatives in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota are the sponsors of this program to recognize outstanding students for academic and community achievements. The scholars of the week were nominated for this honor by principals and faculty from throughout the KSFY-TV viewing area. A television news reporter interviewed

each weekly scholar and the interviews were broadcast during KSFY’s Thursday evening news and Friday morning show. In addition, honorees received \$100 from their local Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

The Scholar of the Week program is another example of your local electric cooperative’s long-standing involvement with local schools, education and the community. The Scholar of the Year Banquet is an exciting climax to the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives’ weekly salute to scholastic and civic excellence.

To learn more about the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Scholar of the Week program and to view all of this school year’s recipients, visit this Web site <http://touchstoneenergyscholaroftheweek.coop>.



Teen News

Young Scientists Head for Washington, D.C.

Rapid City Central High School won the 13th Annual South Dakota Regional Science Bowl Saturday, March 4, 2006, at the Huron Event Center, Huron, S.D., earning the opportunity to compete at the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., April 27-May 1.

Since the program began in 1991, the national event has brought together more than 60,000 high school mathematics and science students from across the country. The contest tests knowledge in astronomy, biology, chemistry, math, physics and earth, computer and general science.

Brandon Valley High School placed second, Huron High School placed third and Watertown’s Great Plains Lutheran High School placed fourth. Thirty teams from 21 high schools competed.

Members of the Rapid City Central High School team are: Gabe Rensch, Josh Swanson, Jacob

Boschee, Phillip Birgenheir, and Jeff Lang. Their coach is Michael Slaback.

Second place went to the Brandon Valley High School team of Maria Bender, Lizzy Reid, Jason Nadenicek, Matt Sickler and A.J. Parry. Their coach is Julie Reid.

The third place Huron High School team included Kevin Ames, Brian Hemen, Adam Ferrier and Lewis Chan. Their coach is Demi Moon.

Fourth place went to the Great Plains Lutheran High School team of Dylan Bosak, John Rawerts, Abby Roloff, Jacob Steinmetz and Ben Myers. Their coach is Greg Diersen.

Minnesota will be represented by a team from Chaska High School.



Members of the winning team, from left, are: Gabe Rensch, Phillip Birgenheir, Josh Swanson, Jacob Boschee, Jeff Lang and Coach Michael Slaback.