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HOUSE WISE

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Scary Stuff!!!



*Fuel prices all over the
place!*

It's time to be picking out a pumpkin and get to work carving your best scary face. I was intrigued by the title of the book I ran across at a recent trip to Barnes and Noble. The book was entitled Extreme Pumpkin, and it had some of the scariest pumpkin faces I have ever seen.

Speaking of scary, have you seen heating oil, propane and natural gas prices lately? They are all over the place, and price of electricity is heading up now that the Dominion Power rate hike was approved. With fuel prices all over the place and the economy slowing down, saving money and being thrifty has certainly come back in vogue.

I have written several times on the little things you can do to save money on your energy bill for your house. Little changes add up to big savings when you look at your monthly fuel bill. There are lots of big ticket items in your house that eat away at your pocketbook, but I've already gone over many

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Scary Stuff!!!
- 1 Dan's Desk

Please see *Scary* on page 2

Dan's Desk

By Dan Guinn



If you have been reading my column for very long, you know that I just love finding new and exciting tools to try out. When my wife and I go on a date, we actually visit big box tool stores trying to keep up with what's new and exciting. All this to keep you informed of all that is hot and entirely necessary.

I ran into a new charger for my vast collection of cordless drill batteries. Yes, I said batteries plural. This cool little charger can charge multiple types and sizes of batteries at the same time. It is from 10C Technologies and is called the

Please see *Dan's Desk* on page 3

From *SCARY* page 1

of those. Check out all the archived articles on our website at www.DanGuinnHomes.com.

Phantom loads around your house can add up to a significant amount as well. Just like a leaky faucet that drips, drips, drips, constantly using water, a phantom load constantly draws a small amount of power that over time adds up to a lot.

Your largest phantom load is probably that warm black box attached to your TV. Your cable or satellite TV box that is a great place to warm up your hands when you come in from a cold day of raking leaves, or the favorite daytime resting area for your cat is also costing you a fortune in electricity over time. The boxes draw virtually the same amount of power whether you are watching TV or not. The only way to solve this problem is to either unplug the box when not in use or put the cable box and the TV on a power strip that you turn off when you leave the room. If you have a VCR or video game beside your TV as well, make sure to plug them into the power strip too. All of these items have a transformer in them that draws current 24 hours a day.

The next scariest item is your coffee pot. Early on I discovered by accident just how much power a standard automatic drip coffeemaker draws. Even though the newer models tend to shut themselves off eventually, they can run for as much as three hours. Just how much power a coffee maker draws became painfully apparent on one of those occasions that we had to run the essentials in our house off of a generator. The generator was running fine until we turned on the coffeemaker and there was a noticeable draw on the generator as it kicked into overdrive to handle the weight. After looking at the back of the unit to find out what wattage it was, I immediately went to Bed, Bath and Beyond to purchase a coffee press and a thermal carafe that would keep that little pot of coffee perfectly hot until I was ready to drink it.

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From *Dan's Desk* page 1

Contact Elizabeth and Dan Guinn at info@danguinnhomes.com for the free report, "Top Ten Best Ideas to Reduce Utility Bills and Spend the Savings on What You Really Want!" Just send me an email requesting a copy and I will speed one out to you!

Advantage. It comes in two sizes, a single battery charger or one with four ports for charging. The smaller one will run you about \$150 and the larger one runs about \$450. I found a local supplier, Fastenal in Oyster Point that carries them. In addition to purchasing the charger, you need the adapter for each of the types of batteries that you want to charge like DeWalt, Bosch or Makita.

So why do you need a new charger that costs more money when you have the one that came with the drill? Good question, here's why. Not only will the charger charge any brand of battery from a cordless drill that is out there, it will do it in only 15 minutes. Wait, you have more than one battery to charge? You can plug 4 different batteries in the crew charger any size from 10.8 to 18 volt at one time and it will charge all four in 15 minutes and will only take up one plug, so no scary web of cords at your project site.

There's even more... the charger will even detect which kind of battery you have like NiCad, Lion, or NiMH and it will customize a low heat charge as necessary. Have you ever had to replace one of your batteries before? They run around \$100 each. This charger will take batteries that your manufacturer supplied charger won't charge anymore and revive it. The website not only talks about it but I have read reviews that swear that it's true. See I did get around to the save you money part, and you thought I just wanted a new tool.



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Dan Guinn Homes

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