

City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

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ENERGYWISE TIP ~ Dehumidifiers



Summertime in Nebraska. Anyone experiencing a few can tell you they can be hot. If they are from eastern Nebraska, they can also tell you humidity makes those summer days feel even sweltering. While air-conditioning systems are tasked with removing most of this excess indoor humidity, many homes and businesses use stand-alone dehumidifiers to lower levels.

To keep comfortable during the summer, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends a humidity level between 30 and 50%, while the Environmental Protection Agency recommends between 30 and 60%. In addition to eliminating the muggy, clammy feeling indoors, additional dehumidification can provide the following additional benefits:

- Improved air quality
- Lessened allergy and asthma symptoms
- Mold prevention
- Diminished musty odors
- Reduced airborne dust
- Dust mite suppression
- Protection of the home's or building's structural integrity

However, not everyone realizes the impact dehumidifiers can have on summer utility bills. For each dehumidifier used, the monthly expense will often run from \$15 to \$35, but it can exceed \$50 per month if the unit runs frequently. Here are some

ideas of how to manage humidity problems while saving money.

Set the humidistat so the dehumidifier does not run continuously. For basements in the summertime, 50% relative humidity is recommended. In colder weather, relative humidity between 25 and 40% is advised to reduce condensation on windows.

Close all windows and doors to the area being conditioned to dramatically reduce humidity coming from outside air.

Place the dehumidifier in the area with the highest humidity, but do not create a safety hazard by placing it in or near water. Dehumidifiers are not the solution to standing water (or running water) in basements.

Make sure the dehumidifier is connected to a properly grounded outlet.

Position the dehumidifier away from the wall or furniture so air can freely circulate through the unit.

Hook up a hose to drain the dehumidifier if emptying the tank is a chore.

If frost forms on the coils, turn off the machine until it melts. Frost can form when the room temperature drops below 65°F. Note that automatic defrosting dehumidifiers are a convenient way to address this maintenance

issue. The automatic defrost feature is a must-have for anybody who plans to use their device in colder climates.

Keep the dehumidifier clean. Wipe or vacuum dust and dirt from the coils and fan.

If you have a choice of fan speeds, higher speeds are more efficient, though lower speeds are quieter.

Reduce energy use during peak electric use periods. Put your dehumidifier on a timer to turn it on at 9 p.m. and off at 10 a.m.

Finally, when you are shopping for a dehumidifier, purchase an ENERGY STAR®-qualified model. A dehumidifier that has earned the ENERGY STAR® label uses more efficient refrigeration coils, compressors and fans to remove the same amount of moisture as a similarly-sized conventional unit, but uses nearly 15% less energy.

Your local utility wants to help you stay cool, comfortable and healthy this summer. Contact them if you would like more information on ways to improve your energy efficiency, as well as various EnergyWiseSM incentives that may be available to you for implementing energy efficient technologies.

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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

July 6th
July 20th

CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

City Hall office
Hours are:
7:30 a.m.
until 4:30 p.m.

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City offices will be closed  
Monday, July 5th in observance of 4th of July.

### CITY SIREN SIGNALS

**Fire Alarm Siren:** This is a high/low tone and will operate in daytime hours

**Tornado Siren:** This will be a single high tone siren for 3 minutes.

**Tornado Shelters:** City Auditorium at 3rd & Pearl Street

&  
East Park Restrooms

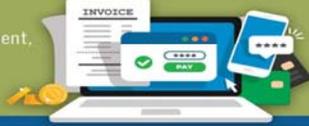
## Department News ~



**DISCOVER A  
NEW WAY TO  
PAY!**

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- Pay via phone, text, website, or mobile app
- Make a one-time payment, schedule a payment, or sign up for auto pay
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**WISE WORDS**

*“Life is not about how fast you run or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.”*

*~Vivian Komori*

## Playground Safety ~



It's that time of year again. Summer is in full swing, and the city parks and playgrounds are busy with kids of all ages swinging, sliding and playing in the sand.

In May, City employees conducted inspections of parks and equipment and are removing, replacing and repairing equipment to keep the parks fun and safe.

The most effective way to keep your child safe while playing in the parks is adult supervision. Parents can help prevent playground accidents by

taking some precautions, ensuring that there is adult supervision at the playground, and making sure that any equipment that their child plays on is appropriate to his or her age and maturity level.

Adult supervision can help prevent injuries by making sure kids properly use any playground equipment and don't engage in unsafe behavior around it. If an injury does occur, an adult can assist the child and administer any needed first aid right away.

Kids should always have adult supervision when they're at the playground. Young children (and sometimes older children) can't always gauge distances properly and aren't capable of foreseeing dangerous situations by themselves. Older children often love to test their limits on the playground, so it's important for an adult to be there to keep them in check.

Have a fun and safe Summer!!



**WAYNE  
RECYCLING &  
TRASH  
CENTER (RTC)  
HOURS**

Monday & Friday  
9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Tuesday  
11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Saturday  
8:00 am.—Noon

Or by appointment  
Tuesday, Wednesday  
and Thursday

## Green Notes ~ Where can I recycle plastic bags in Wayne?



Plastic bags require a different type of recycling than plastic bottles and containers. That's why it's important to bring them to designated locations for recycling instead of placing them in your curbside recycling container. Our local grocery stores in Wayne, Pac N Save and Quality Foods, each have a plastic bag recycling bin at in their store marked **Bag-2-Bag®**. These bins accept:

- ◆ Plastic retail bags
- ◆ Produce bags
- ◆ Newspaper Bags
- ◆ Dry Cleaning Bags
- ◆ Paper towel and toilet paper wrap
- ◆ Over wrap on cases of soda or canned vegetables
- ◆ Sealed air pouches in mailed packages aka "Air Pillows"

- ◆ Ziploc and other zipper style bags (with zippers removed)

The Wayne Recycling & Trash Center (RTC) does **NOT** accept plastic bags for recycling. Plastic bags can cause machine failures and other problems at recycling centers when improperly put in your curbside recycling. Please take your plastic bags to the grocery stores for recycling. Better yet, bring your own reusable bag when you shop and skip the plastic bag entirely. Both Pac N Save and Quality Foods offer a reusable bag credit of 5¢ per bag!

**Save the date for electronics recycling on Saturday, September 18, 8:00 – 10:00 am, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Lincoln and Pearl.**

For more tips on the Green Path to the Good Life, like the Wayne Green Team on Facebook or visit [www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam](http://www.cityofwayne.org/greenteam).

The Fair Housing Act protects people from discrimination when they are renting, buying, or securing financing for any housing. The prohibitions specifically cover discrimination because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability and the presence of children.

If you believe you may be a victim of housing discrimination, contact HUD 1-800-669-9777 or your local Fair Housing representative:

**Wes Blecke**  
**306 Pearl Street**  
**Wayne NE 68787**  
 wblecke@cityofwayne.org  
**YOUR CHOICE. YOUR RIGHT.**  
**YOUR HOME**

