

HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

Labor Day
Monday, September 7

Visit bryantx.gov/coronavirus
for the latest closures and cancellations.

BILL PAYMENT

**Kiosk locations accepting
credit cards, cash and checks:**

HEB
1609 N. Texas Ave.

HEB
725 E. Villa Maria

BTU Drive-Through
205 E. 28th St.
Open 24 hours

Bring your BTU account number, BTU bill,
keycard or reminder letter.

Payments can be made 24 hours a day
via the "e-payment" option by calling
979.821.5700. Account number and
credit card required.

www.btutilities.com

979.821.5700

Primary Address:
205 E. 28th St.,
Bryan, TX 77803

Mailing Address:
PO Box 8000, Bryan, TX 77805



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HOT WEATHER ENERGY TIPS – Kitchen Edition

As the temperature in our region rises, so does our energy consumption. How we use our kitchens can add lots of extra heat and humidity to our homes, making our air conditioning systems work even harder to keep us cool. Here are some tips to keep the heat outside of your home where it belongs:



Use your microwave and crockpot more often and your stove and oven less often.

The microwave oven is more efficient at cooking foods than a regular oven or stove. That's because the heat stays mainly in the food. An oven must heat up all the air inside the oven before the food can begin to get warm, and that turns the heat up in your kitchen as well. Crockpots use about one-fourth the energy of an oven, and they add much less heat to the kitchen.



Another efficient cooking tip is to use the right-sized pot or pan on the right-sized burner.

If you are using a 6-inch pan on an 8-inch burner, over 40 percent of your heat is being wasted, warming up the house instead. Use the smaller burners for your smaller pots to cook more efficiently and throw off less heat. Also, use lids for your pots and pans whenever possible to maximize cooking efficiency.



Run your dishwasher at night.

Modern dishwashers are extremely efficient, using much less water than hand washing. However, dishwashers increase the amount of humidity in your kitchen, which means your air conditioner will have to work harder to make your home feel comfortable. By running your dishwasher at night before bed, the air conditioner is already running more efficiently in the cooler evening air and has an easier time removing the humidity from your home.

IRRIGATION TIPS

Summer in the Brazos Valley can be brutal for lawns and gardens. On a sunny day, the average lawn will use over 100 gallons of water for every 1,000 square feet. On a cloudy day, that same lawn may use less than one-third that amount. If the weather doesn't keep your lawn and garden hydrated, an irrigation system will have to supplement the lack of rainfall.

Whether you use in-ground or hose-end sprinklers, now is a good time to look at your overall irrigation system. Here are some tips on how to utilize your system to create a healthy landscape and conserve water.

How much should I water? Lawns in our region need from three-quarter to one-and-a-half inches of water each week. It is much better to water deeply a couple of times per week than to water for a few minutes every day. By watering deeply, your plants will develop a deep root system that will maximize their ability to absorb water. Water lawns at three-quarters of an inch to achieve this deep watering. If you have any areas where the water runs off your lawn or plant beds, cut the watering time in half, then run an extra half cycle for that area after the rest of your lawn has been watered.

How often should I water? According to Texas A&M Agrilife Extension, you should water as infrequently as possible. Your yard's needs will vary based on the type of soil, amount of direct sunlight, amount of rainfall received, etc. In our region, watering frequency can be anywhere from every 3 days to once per week during the summer. To determine your frequency, monitor your lawn closely and water at the first sign of wilting grass.

When should I water? To maximize absorption and minimize evaporation, water before 10:00 am. If you can program your sprinklers, set them to complete watering before dawn. This will take advantage of lower temperatures and lower winds to reduce evaporation.

For more information on efficient and effective landscape irrigation, visit: wateruniversity.tamu.edu.



CENSUS FOLLOW-UP BEGINS SOON

Census workers will soon begin to follow up with households who have not responded to the 2020 Census to ensure that everyone in Bryan is counted. So, if you want to avoid a phone call or home visit from a Census worker, make sure to complete your Census at: my2020census.gov.

NO INVITATION NEEDED

Even if you did not receive an invitation or code in the mail, you can still fill out your 2020 Census at my2020census.gov. On the page where it asks for your Census ID, simply click the link that says "If you do not have a Census ID, click here." This will allow you to complete your Census using simply your address.

COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS AND WIN

Want to help small businesses AND make sure you're counted? Head over to the City of Bryan's social media pages every other Monday to participate in gift card giveaways to local small businesses. To be eligible to win, you must fill out your census at my2020census.gov and complete the giveaway instructions. Full details and rules at: bryantx.gov/census.

CONSERVATION TIPS

Energy Conservation Tip:

Leaving the computer on all day can cost about 21 cents per day, or about \$75 per year. Unplug all electronics and appliances when not in use.



Water Conservation Tip:

To reduce evaporation and control weeds, apply mulch around shrubs and flower beds.

