

# Florence Energy News

## ENERGY STAR® LABELED PRODUCTS CAN HELP YOU SAVE ON UTILITY BILLS



As a consumer, you can save money and help protect the environment by simply looking for a the ENERGY STAR® logo. You may be familiar with the logo, but not know exactly what differentiates an ENERGY STAR® product from similar makes and models. Here is some information about the program as well as the benefits of purchasing ENERGY STAR® products.

### ENERGY STAR®

ENERGY STAR® is the brand name developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to signify energy-efficient products. This voluntary program is a partnership between the EPA, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), product manufacturers, local utilities, and retailers. The agencies set energy efficiency criteria for specific consumer and commercial products. Products meeting or exceeding the energy efficiency criteria established by the agencies are awarded the ENERGY STAR® label. In addition to the products, ENERGY STAR® also sets standards for homes and businesses ENERGY STAR® products use less energy than other products, saving you money on your utility bills, and helping you protect the environment. THE ENERGY STAR® label can be found on products such as: compact fluorescent light bulbs, household appliances, home electronics, office equipment, heating and cooling equipment, residential light fixtures, and windows.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CHOOSING ENERGY STAR® LABELED PRODUCTS?

ENERGY STAR® products use less energy, save you money, and help the environment. Because they use 15% to 75% less energy to operate than standard models, you will save money on your utility bills for as long as you use the products. All these savings come without sacrificing product features or performance. Also, because they use less energy, less air pollution is created as fossil fuels are burned to generate the electricity used in your home. Reducing your energy usage through the use of energy efficient products is the most efficient way to reduce pollutants such as carbon dioxide and methane.

According to the EPA, by choosing products labeled with the ENERGY STAR® logo, the average household can save up to \$400 on annual utility bills. Ultimately, the more energy you save at home, the more pollution you can prevent. So the next time you are in the market for a new refrigerator, computer, or even light fixture, check the label. If you see the ENERGY STAR® logo, you have the confidence of knowing that the product you are about to purchase has been approved by the EPA. For more information about these and other ENERGY STAR® programs, contact the EPA Hotline at 1-888-STAR-YES.



If you have questions or need additional information, please contact **740-6089** or visit our web site at [www.florenceutilities.com](http://www.florenceutilities.com).

## SEWER BACKUP OR SLOW DRAIN: WHAT SHOULD I DO?



As a customer of the City of Florence wastewater sewer system, you may occasionally experience problems with drains that go down slowly or backup. There are two main reasons that this may occur. There may be a blockage in your private sewer service line, or there may be a blockage in the City's main sewer line that you connect to. How do you know, and what should you do?

The customer's private sewer line is the line that is connected to your household plumbing on one end and to the City's main sewer line on the other end. The homeowner or business is responsible for the maintenance of this line, and it may require that you contact a plumber to correct the problem. To determine what you should do, first check with your neighbors on each side of you.

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### MUSIC IN THE PARK

Music in the Park begins in May with live entertainment in Wilson Park from 11 am - 1 pm.

May 6 - *Travis Wammack & Friends*  
May 13 - *The Cadillacs*  
May 20 - *Joseph Baldwin*  
May 27 - *Dillon Hodges*

Come out and enjoy live entertainment while you have lunch at Wilson Park. For more details, call 718-5088.

# Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

To keep our utility customers more informed, the City of Florence Water/Wastewater Department has put together a series of three articles about sewer lines. The third article, "Sewer Backup or Slow Drain: What Should I Do?" appears in this issue. This article includes helpful information about what to do if you are having problems with sewer line blockages.

You can save money and help protect the environment by choosing products with the ENERGY STAR® logo. Information about this program and the benefits of purchasing ENERGY STAR® products are listed inside.

Also, included in this publication are facts about stormwater pollution. Stormwater pollution is caused by the daily activities of people everywhere. Read more inside to see how you can help prevent pollution before it gets into our storm drainage system.

[www.florenceutilities.com](http://www.florenceutilities.com)

If they are experiencing no problems, then the problem is most likely a problem with your lines. Before you contact a plumber and to avoid an unnecessary service call, the City of Florence Water/Wastewater Department recommends that you contact our department first to assist you in determining whether the problem is the City's main or your private sewer service line. There is no charge for this service.

To contact the City of Florence Water/Wastewater Department for assistance, please call 760-6637, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. After hours, holidays, and weekends, please call 764-4456.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Florence Utilities will be closed Memorial Day, Monday, May 25.**

**The TVA Fuel Cost Adjustment rates reduced in April which will be effective for all meter readings through June 30. We are hopeful that this downward trend will continue next quarter.**

## STORMWATER POLLUTION

Stormwater pollution is caused by the daily activities of people everywhere. It is a myth that pollution of our rivers and bays is caused mainly by industry or sewage. Most is caused by the everyday activities of people in our city and suburbs. Individuals, businesses, local governments, and other community organizations all have a role in preventing pollution before it gets into our storm drainage system.

Storm drains flow directly to nearby rivers and streams, not to wastewater treatment plants. Your city street is really like waterfront property and everything rinsing off your roof, yard, and driveway goes to the river. Each year, people dump thousands of gallons of used oil, antifreeze, and other wastes into storm drains. Rainwater runs off streets, lawns, farms, construction, and industrial sites, and picks up fertilizers, dirt, pesticides, oil and grease, and many other pollutants on the way to our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Reducing the discharge of pollutants will protect our rivers and lakes from pollution that may kill fish, close beaches, and increase weed and algae growth.



### WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

It is simple! Dump nothing down the storm drain you would not swim in or drink.

- Use less fertilizer on lawns
- Avoid pesticides
- Compost garden trimmings
- Recycle used oil
- Wash your car on the lawn, not on the driveway or street
- Pick up pet wastes
- Do not litter

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
CITY OF FLORENCE ENGINEERING DEPT.  
256-760-6350

### *Walk of Honor at River Heritage Park*



*recognizes individuals of Florence and Lauderdale County who have achieved national or international acclaim.*

*Accepting nominations until May 1*

*Mayor's Office - 760-6400*