

plugged in

THE EXPERT TRADESMENS' NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the eighth edition of *Plugged In!*

WELL 2015 IS OFF AND RUNNING with Autumn already upon us.

Did summer living leave you with big electricity bills to pay? Air conditioning, pool pumps and even the extra fridge for xmas food can skyrocket the utilities bill. Check out our electric meter article and discover how you can save \$\$\$ all year round.

DIY disasters can strike at any time especially if you think changing a leaking tap is simple. Save time and money whilst preventing mishaps with our plumbing pros and cons article.

Thank you again for your continued support. Wishing you an abundant Autumn.

All of us at Everest Electrical and Jedi Plumbing. ■



DIY or DI JEDI?

LEAKING TAPS ARE A COMMON plumbing occurrence in most households.

Through our experience, we are aware that many people attempt to change tap washers themselves. Whilst many "how to" videos make this out to be a very simple job there are a few questions you need to ask yourself before embarking on this home handyman job.

What type of tap do I have?

Is your tap a mixer tap, a quarter turn tap, a half turn tap, a ceramic disc tap or a tap with o-rings and jumper valves?

What component of the tap is causing it to leak?

Is it the washer itself, the o-ring, the washer seat, worn ceramic discs or worn cartridge seals?

Do I have the right tools and materials for the job?

You will require a shifting spanner, tube spanners for deeply recessed taps, pointy nosed pliers, a reseating tool and possibly a reseating kit, bonnet thread cleaner, correct tap lubricant, washers, o-rings, and in the case of ceramic disc taps a correct disc kit.

Am I happy with the quality of the materials I can get from Bunnings/ Masters?

The major hardware chains usually carry materials of varying quality. If you are going to attempt this job yourself, make sure you buy the best in their range.

Is my "how to" video made in Australia?

Be aware that plumbing standards and materials vary from country to country.

As you can see, fixing a leaking tap may not be as simple as some of the "how to" videos make out. For peace of mind, some things are best left to the experts. ■

\$25

Fix that drip! A hot water tap dripping at the rate of 1 drip per second can waste up to \$25 worth of hot water in a year.

\$35 OFF!

Mention this article and receive \$35 off tap repairs this Autumn.

Remember...
to mention your membership
when you book in your
next job with us.

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Time to change

IS YOUR ELECTRICAL METER SAVING you money?

Currently in Australia there are two types of meters, Accumulation and Time of Use (interval). Accumulation meters, known as flat rate meters, keep track only of total accumulated electricity usage and you are charged the same amount for electricity usage regardless of when it is used. They can be cyclometer, dial display or digital.

Time of Use meters (interval) allow you to have different charge rates for different times of the day. There is usually a Peak, Off Peak and Shoulder Period. Prices are generally cheaper in Off Peak and Shoulder



Left: Cyclometer, Middle: Dial, Right: Digital

periods, therefore Time of Use meters allow you to save money by shifting your usage out of peak periods to less expensive periods.

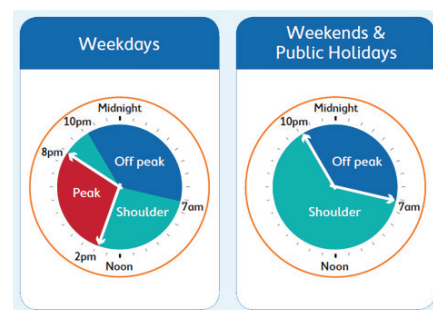
Change your electricity usage and save money with Time of Use metering with these tips:

- Turn your dishwasher on before you go to bed (off peak) rather than straight after dinner or use delay cycle to schedule it for off peak times. Added bonus of no more guilt about not doing the dishes straight after dinner.
- Hang washing to dry in the sun but if you must use a clothes dryer, then try using it on weekends or after 8pm. If you are an early riser than use it before 7am.
- Try running your pool pump in shoulder time and you could save more than \$250 yearly. If it is a quiet pump (check local noise restrictions) consider

running your pool pump overnight (off peak) and save even more.

- Only wash clothes when you have a full load, use cold water and consider putting the load on to wash before going to bed or early in the morning to use off peak time. If your washer has a delay cycle, schedule it for off peak times.
- In summer set your air conditioner no lower than 24 degrees as each degree lower increases energy use by 10%. This applies to winter too so set your heating no higher than 20 degree.
- Use a fan instead of air con as a ceiling fan costs approximately 5c per hour during peak period compared to 94c for air con.
- Keep unneeded lights off during peak times.
- Be aware of seasonal changes in charge rates as they may vary between summer and winter.

After an application by your electrician for a Time of Use meter is approved and providing your switchboard is compliant, it can generally be installed in just a few hours. If used correctly the Time of Use meter can quickly recoup your installation costs. ■



Peak electricity times.

SAVE ENERGY AND SAVE \$\$\$

This autumn get a 20% discount on installation costs for Time of Use metering when mentioning this article.

DID YOU KNOW?

A spark of static electricity can measure up to **three thousand (3,000) volts.**

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