WINTER SAVINGS: TIMERS AND POWER SAVER CORDS

EPCOR

Plugging in. It's a fact of life with an Alberta winter. Come home after a long day and plug in your vehicle's block heater; it's routine, something we do every day. A block heater can use a lot of electricity and is often on longer than necessary.

This winter, be energy efficient. Use an outdoor timer or a power saver cord to reduce your block heater's operating costs. Remember, making energy efficient choices saves energy, saves money and saves our environment.

WINTER SAVINGS

For convenience, many of us plug in our vehicle's block heater when we arrive home at night. That means the block heater can be on an average of 14 hours a day. A maximum of four hours is needed to preheat an engine. These additional hours every day waste energy and cost you money — over $22.00 a month for each vehicle that is plugged in. If you have an in-car warmer plugged in with your block heater, you could be using as much as $48.00 every month. Over the winter it can add up quickly! It pays to use an outdoor timer or power saver cord.

AUTOMATIC OUTDOOR TIMERS

Automatic timers have an hourly setting that turns the power on and off at preset times. By setting the timer to provide power to the block heater three hours before using the vehicle, you can save as much as 80% of your plug-in costs.

There are two types of timers available. A manual timer has a 24-hour clock. The desired on-off times are set with pins. The times you set will be the same each day of the week.

A programmable electronic timer offers more flexibility. A seven day program allows for different settings for selected days during the week and weekends.

Remember to use an outdoor timer. They are best able to withstand the cold, snow and rain of our winters.

POWER SAVER CORDS

A power saver cord is an extension cord with a thermostat built into it. The thermostat monitors the temperature of the coolant in the engine turning the block heater on and off. This maintains the right engine temperature for a quick easy start.

When the outside temperature is -20˚C (-4˚F), the power saver cord is only on for 20% of the time. At -30˚C (-22˚F), the power saver cord is on for 55% of the time. Remember too that it takes approximately three hours to cool down a hot engine to the cut-in temperature of the thermostat. By using a power saver cord, no electricity is used during this cool down period.

Check for power saver cords in the automotive section of local retailers. It takes only a few minutes to have one professionally installed.

WHICH IS BEST?

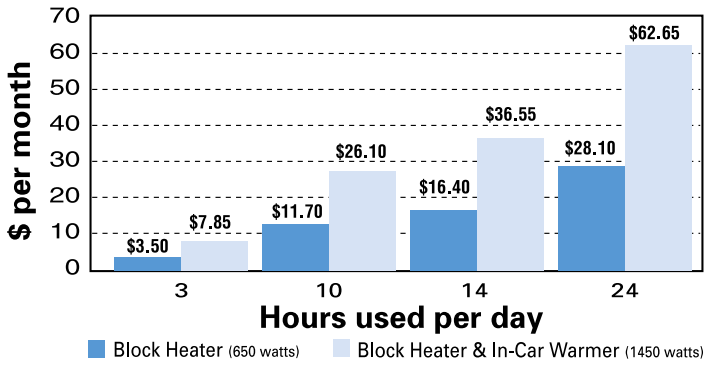
A timer suits people on a regular schedule like those that leave at the same time each morning. A timer plugs into the wall outlet so is best used in a secure area such as a garage or on private property. Outdoor timers can be used year round for security lighting or decorative outdoor lighting.

A power saver cord ensures your vehicle is always ready for an easy start. Only the plug is visible through the grill so the power saver cord is out of sight, an advantage if you plug in where there is public access.

PLUG IN COSTS

Have you ever wondered what it costs to plug in a block heater for 3, 10, 14 and 24 hours a day? The following chart can help you out. Remember, a maximum of four hours is needed as the engine doesn't get any warmer when it's plugged in for extended periods of time. When both a block heater and an in-car warmer are plugged in, your energy costs more than double.

* Calculations use an electricity price of 6¢/kWh. Actual electricity prices may vary.



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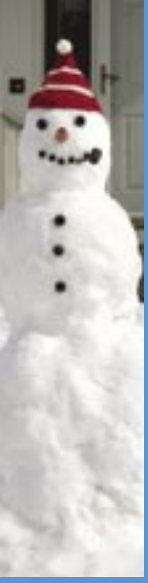

LIGHTING GUIDES ALSO AVAILABLE:

- Holiday lighting: bright ideas to save money and power
- Energy efficient recessed and track lighting
- Timers and sensors
- Lighting with compact fluorescents
- Fluorescent lighting in your home

For more information contact us at:
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