VOL. XXVI NO. 6, June 2013

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INSIGHTS

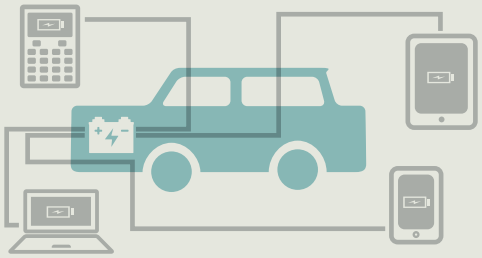
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Keeping Gadgets Charged During a Power Outage

Major storms have caused many people to search for new ways to keep devices like tablets or cell phones charged up when extreme weather causes extended electricity outages. Check out these tips.

- Solar chargers can be plugged into your car dashboard or outlet to recharge a cell phone.
- Power inverters use your car battery to charge cell phones, tablets, laptops, and PCs.
- Keep your laptop fully charged. You can plug your cell phone or tablet into the USB port using USB cables.
- A hand-cranked radio with a USB port can recharge a cell phone in a few hours.
- Battery-powered backup chargers. You will have to keep extra batteries on hand or use one with an internal re-chargeable battery.



Did You Know?

In 1838, Samuel Morse offered to give his invention to the fledgling republic of Texas, but he never received a response. Finally, in 1860 – 14 years after the Lone Star State joined the U.S. – Morse formally withdrew his offer and gave the telegraph to the United States.

Ladders Can Kill

OSHA has released a new booklet that describes safe ladder work practices. This 14-page fully-illustrated booklet is presented in English and Spanish. Download your copy now at: http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3625.pdf.

THINKING GREEN

Ways to Live More Ecologically

- Drain cooking grease onto paper bags, not paper towels.
- Recycle aluminum, glass, newspapers, old clothes, and plastic.
- Heat your home more with renewable energies.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth.
- Discover and protect watersheds in your area.
- Use rechargeable batteries.
- Invest in solar power, where practical.
- Buy energy-efficient appliances.
- Re-use plastic bags for storage and waste.
- Save up for full loads in the dishwasher.
- Don't burn trash or other smoky materials.
- Turn off the lights when not needed.
- Drive a fuel-efficient car.
- Re-use paper bags.
- Insulate your home to maximum efficiency.
- Plant native trees and shrubs around your home.
- Eat more natural, nutritious foods.
- Turn down the thermostat on your water heater.
- Support efficient energy sources in your bio-region.

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Google+ (http://plus.google.com/b/115213248170305210136).

What's the Difference?

The US Environmental Protection Agency defines these three common chemicals:

Cleaners remove dirt through wiping, scrubbing, or mopping.

Sanitizers contain chemicals that reduce, but do not necessarily eliminate, microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses and molds from surfaces. Public health codes may require cleaning with the use of sanitizers in certain areas, like toilets and food preparation areas.

Disinfectants contain chemicals that destroy or inactivate microorganisms that cause infections. Disinfectants are critical for infection control in hospitals and other health care settings.

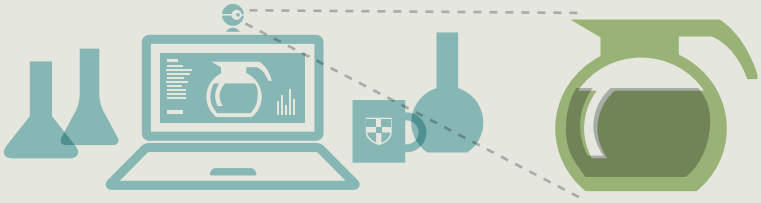


Ahh … Coffee!

Most of us appreciate the lure of a good cup of coffee. But you might not know the power it's had over mankind for centuries. Coffee is a staple in nearly every business place, downtown corner, and kitchen. It's influenced political movements, household spending, and good nature through the centuries.

Here's proof from mentalfloss.com:

- The average U.S. worker spends $1,092 on coffee each year.
- In 1511, coffee was banned in Mecca because it was believed to stimulate radical thinking and hanging out.
- In 1674, the "Women's Petition Against Coffee" proposed a ban on coffee for anyone under 60 because the beverage was turning British men into "useless corpses."
- In 1932, Brazil couldn't afford to send its athletes to the Olympics, so they loaded their passenger ship with coffee and tried to sell it at ports along the way to Los Angeles – without much success, unfortunately.
- The first webcam watched a coffee pot, allowing Cambridge researchers to monitor the coffee situation without leaving their desks.
- In 2008, Annamarie Ausnes received a lifesaving kidney from the woman who'd been serving her coffee for years – her Starbucks barista Sandi Andersen.



SOAPBOX

If you can't ignore an insult, top it; if you can't top it, laugh it off; and if you can't laugh it off, it's probably deserved.

Most of us can read the writing on the wall; we just assume it's addressed to someone else.

Technology is a an odd thing. It brings you great gifts with one hand and it stabs you in the back with the other.

Wishing won't paint the porch.

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90 percent probability you'll get it wrong.

Everybody serves some useful purpose, even if it is to set a horrible example. – *Will Rogers*

The best way to keep your word is to rarely give it.

Most of our future lies ahead. – *Denny Crum, Basketball Coach*

Love at first sight sure saves a lot of time.

If it ain't broke…hang in there, it will be.

You can find your way across the country using burger joints the way a navigator uses stars. – *Charles Kuralt*

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INSIGHTS Editor
ChemStation
3400 Encrete Lane
Dayton, OH 45439

kdunlap@chemstation.com

www.chemstation.com

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By the Numbers



Gallons of soap delivered:
199,700,996 since 1984



Empty drums not in landfills:
3,630,927 since 1984