



Making Everyday Easier

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Save Energy, Save Money - and get REBATES!

Do you use incandescent or halogen lamps?

Switch to CFLs and save up to \$30 in electricity costs over the life of each bulb by using 75% less energy.

Southern California Edison Operation Light Exchange -Residential customers may exchange halogen and incandescent floor/table/desk/night lights for new Energy Star labeled lamps. For more info, visit: www.scelampexchange.com

Do you have a window or wall-mounted room air conditioner?

New ENERGY STAR® air conditioners can lower your electricity bill. Get up to \$50 in rebates, visit: www.sce.com/residential/rebates-savings/heating-cooling/heating-cooling.htm

Central Air Conditioner (3-ton unit) - Avg. cost per kWh: \$0.17; Avg. cost per month: \$80.46 when running 4 hours per day. Tip: When home, set your A/C to 78° or 82° when away and the thermostat fan to "auto." You'll get more out of your A/C by regularly cleaning or replacing the filter.

Do you have a refrigerator or freezer 10 or more years old?

New ENERGY STAR® models use up to 50% less electricity. \$50 rebate towards its purchase and \$50 when you get rid of your old, working refrigerator or freezer. Plus they haul it away for FREE. For more info, visit: www.sce.com/residential/rebates-savings/appliance/appliance.htm



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Tech Tip Of The Month - Watch What You Post

With an increasing number of individuals engaging in social networking, it is not surprising that Web sites such as Facebook, Twitter and MySpace have started to play a prominent role in litigation in the United States and Canada, at times affecting outcomes.

In a personal injury case, the question before the court was whether the plaintiff's injuries constituted a "permanent serious impairment of an important physical, mental or psychological function." The plaintiff provided evidence that she had scarring on her face and shoulder that caused her embarrassment and impaired her enjoyment of life. The judge rejected this argument as the plaintiff had posted pictures of herself on Facebook. The judge found that the scarring "does not appear to have interfered with her normal, everyday life in any way."

Fair Trial Trumps Privacy- The fact that an

individual may have restricted viewing of their Facebook profile is irrelevant. Courts have generally held that a party who maintains a private or limited-access Facebook profile stands in the same position as one who sets up a publicly available profile.

Window of Opportunity- However, courts have been clear that the mere proof of the existence of a Facebook profile does not entitle a party to gain access to all materials placed on that site. The information being sought must be relevant. Courts will not tolerate attempts to delay a trial by seeking a plaintiff's Facebook pages. These recent cases highlight how information posted on Facebook or other social networking sites can impact litigation.

Even innocent postings and pictures published on Facebook can be taken out of context. Individuals should be careful about what they post on such Web sites.

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Wireless Power - Available in 3-5 Years?

One of the holiest of Holy Grails of Technology is Wireless Power. Nokia has taken a baby step in that direction with the invention of a cell phone that recharges itself using a unique system: It harvests ambient radio waves from the air, and turns that energy into usable power.

Traditional wireless power systems are specifically designed with a transmitter and receiver. Nokia's system isn't finicky about where it gets its wireless waves. TV, radio, other mobile phone systems can be used as most just bounce around the air and is wasted, absorbed into the environment or scattered into the ether.

Nokia picks up all the bits and pieces of these waves and uses the collected electromagnetic energy to create electrical current, then uses



that to recharge the phone's battery.

Currently, harvesting ambient electromagnetic energy is not going to offer enough electricity to power your whole house or office, but it just might be enough to keep a cell phone alive and kicking.

A huge range of frequencies can be utilized by the system as the energy in any given wave is infinitesimal. It's the same idea that Tesla was exploring 100 years ago, just on a tiny scale.

Currently Nokia is able to harvest 5 milliwatts from the air. The goal is to increase that to 20 milliwatts then 50 milliwatts down the line. Although not enough to keep the phone alive during an active call, it would be enough to recharge the cell phone battery while it's in standby mode-- provided you're not stuck deep underground where radio waves can't penetrate.

Save Energy from Page 1 ...

Refrigerator - Avg. cost per kWh: \$0.17; Avg. cost per month: \$27.50 when running 30 days per month. **Tip:** Dirty coils on the back or bottom of your fridge make it work harder than necessary. Check and clean the coils regularly, especially in the summer.

Electric Stove - Avg. cost per kWh: \$0.17; Avg. cost per month: \$7.23 when running 45 minutes per day. **Tip:** Save money - Use microwaves, toaster ovens, slow cookers and electric skillet instead of large ovens or stoves.

Clothes Dryer - Avg. cost per kWh: \$0.17; Avg. cost per month: \$13.73 when running 34 loads per month. **Tip:** Overloaded dryers are more expensive to run. Dry lightweight and heavy clothes separately. Always clean the lint filter before every load.

Do you need to replace your pool pump?

\$200 rebate if you replace your pool pump with an energy-efficient variable-speed or two-speed model. Energy use will be reduced by 50% and you'll also save over \$400 annually. For more info, visit:



www.sce.com/residential/rebates-savings/pool/pool.htm

Pool Pump - Avg. cost per kWh: \$0.17; Avg. cost per month: \$36.83 when running 6 hours per day.

Tip: A single-speed pump running 6 hours a day won't significantly improve the cleanliness of the water, but will significantly run up your electric bill. Run between 4 and no more than 6 hours.

Pool Pump & Motor Replacement Rebate Program - Savings Example

An average-size pool with 20,000 gallons of water needs cycling once a day:

- Single speed motor - 6 hours to cycle
- Variable motor - 12 hours to cycle

It takes far less energy to move the large amount of water in a pool slowly rather than quickly. It's like driving a car at a slower speed. It may take more time to get to your destination driving 55 mph rather than 70 mph, you'll use 21% less gas. Replacing a single-speed pool pump with a slower, more efficient variable-speed pump is a money-saving, energy-wise decision.



New at INNOVATIVE

DirecTV and You - A few things to think about when signing up

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Thinking about getting DirecTV?

If you're considering signing up for DirecTV there's a few things you'll want to consider.

Custom Installation:

DirecTV does not pay its installers labor to cable your new satellite dish and DirecTV receivers, therefore when it comes to tidiness, cable routing and transparency of the installed items, generally it's about getting in and getting out as quickly as possible.

This isn't to say that all installations are bad; it's just revealing the nature of how the installation process is looked at by the installer. The quicker the installation, the more profitable it is, and this may mean less emphasis on quality and more on quantity.

Custom cable options change all of that. Working with a



If the appearance of the exterior of your home is a concern, then custom cabling could be the answer.

company that provides custom cabling will credit you a portion of the install towards custom cabling. Simply discuss with your installer the desired routing and look of your cabling project and that company should be able to quote the difference.

Single Wire Multi-Switch (SWM)

Existing homes generally have one coax cable already routed to many of the rooms in the home, however if you desire to utilize the DVR function that is so popular today for recording your favorite programs you'll need to add an additional coax to each location, however with DirecTV's SWM technology that all changes.

With SWM you can record a program and at the same time watch another over a single coax connection and the SWM LNB receiver on the dish, this wasn't possible prior to the SWM technology.

Video Distribution

An alternative to having a satellite receiver in each room where you want DirecTV located is to have all of your components centrally located and distributed to each location via component or HDMI connections.

This configuration in conjunction with a wireless video switching controller can not only simplify cabling and receiver mounting, but it also allows you to have just one Blu-Ray player for example and view it on any TV in the



house.

Another advantage to video distribution is, when done properly each room will only need a TV monitor and perhaps a local source wall plate for game consoles and other temporary device connections.

Final Thoughts

If you're considering DirecTV or if you're thinking about distributing video throughout your home choose a company that not only can work within your budget, but that also can help you choose the best method of cabling for your home for both your current needs as well as future needs.

And remember that you (in the end) really do get what you pay for, so be careful not to let price be your only guide, ask for referrals and visit the company's showroom or place of business to see how they themselves operate.

At Innovative in Chino we have a beautiful showroom and server room which are both completely automated with Control4 home control systems controllers and interfaces so you can see for yourself the difference a custom installation can make. Call us today to learn more.

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- QuickBooks Certified
- Verizon Authorized Dealer - Save on Business Plans

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The Ig Nobel awards are awarded for unlikely scientific achievement. According to CNN.com, past awards have gone to researchers who...

- Gave hamsters Viagra and discovered it prevented them from suffering jet lag.
- Looked at sword swallowing and its side effects.
- Created a "bottomless" bowl of soup which proved Americans eat as long as there is food in front of them, not just until they are full.
- Found that wrinkles in sheets are replicated in human and animal skin.
- Created a device that drops a net over bank robbers.
- Explored why woodpeckers don't get headaches.
- Looked into the question of what happens to clams when given Prozac.
- Asked why spaghetti break into more than two pieces.
- Levitated a frog, pieces of fruits and vegetables, and a grasshopper.

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