

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR SAFE LIGHTING THIS SEASON

Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the UL label. Before decorating, check each light strand for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Always be sure to unplug the lights when replacing a bulb. Don't string together more than three standard-size sets of lights or you could risk overheating the circuit.

Outdoors, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with GFCI's. Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.

Take extra care not to throw strings of lights over tree branches that are near power lines and service connections.

Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources, such as heat registers, fireplaces, radiators, and televisions, and water frequently.

Match plugs with outlets. Don't force a 3-pronged plug into a 2-pronged outlet or extension cord, or remove the third prong.

Keep electric cords out of high-traffic areas. Do not run them through doorways, staple, nail, or tack them to the wall, or hide them under rugs or carpets.

For more safety tips, visit safeelectricity.org.



CONTACT US

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

302 East Glaydas

P.O. Box 880

Hooker, OK 73945

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Telephone: 800-522-3315

www.tri-countyelectric.coop



SAVE WITH AN EFFICIENT HOLIDAY SEASON

Top 10 Energy Saving Tips

The Power of Community



TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

TOP 10 ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

10. Ask Santa for Energy Star-rated appliances and CFLs

9. Skip the electronics and get the kids board games

8. Do not preheat the oven when cooking large pieces of meat

7. Lower thermostats and replace HVAC filters every 30 days

6. Check windows and doors for leaks and seal them

5. Install timers on outdoor lighting displays

4. Follow Scrooge's example and skip the holidays

3. Decorate with LED lights

2. Adjust power settings on video game consoles to the power saving feature

1. Don't invite people to your house; visit others and use their electricity

HOW TO HAVE AN EFFICIENT HOLIDAY SEASON

The holidays are a time for family, friends and celebrations. An expensive January electric bill does not have to be the last gift of Christmas. You can celebrate and save money at the same time.

Everyone knows the house with the large light display. It is also the house with the very large January electric bill. Traditional mini lights use 36 watts of power compared to only 5 watts for a string of LED lights.

Other advantages of LED lights over traditional lights include:

- LED lights are generally made of plastic and will not break.
- Many LED lights are also brighter than the traditional mini lights.
- A string of LED lights can cost two to three times more than traditional string lights but last up to ten times longer.

When looking for LEDs it is a good idea to view the lights plugged in at the store or make sure that you can return the lights if they do not meet your expectations.

All holiday lights, whether LED or incandescent, should be placed on a timer. Simple timers cost about \$20 and can be set to turn on at sunset and turn off the lights after a set number of hours. A good rule of thumb is to have lights on from sunset until bedtime.

The holiday season generally conjures up images of elves and a jolly toy maker from the North Pole. What many people do not realize is that beneath the Christmas tree lurks a vampire... an energy vampire. Many of the Christmas gifts that are given are energy vampires that use electricity

24 hours a day - even when they are supposedly turned off. Examples of energy vampires are cell phone chargers, computers, and video game consoles and any electronic that comes with a large plug.

On average, home entertainment products such as TVs, stereos and video game consoles account for 7 percent of a home's annual electric bill. Computers and their related equipment account for another 5 percent of the yearly electric bill. These devices are always on and always consuming electricity. However, these vampires do not have to ruin your holiday and drive up your energy bill year round. When possible unplug devices when they are not being used or place them on a smart power strip.

A smart power strip is designed to eliminate all electricity to devices such as DVD players and stereo systems while allowing TVs and satellite and cable boxes to remain plugged in.

After the house has been decorated and the presents opened, it is time for the party to begin. Prior to the guests arriving you should turn down the thermostat. That may sound strange when it is cold outside. However, once a home begins to fill with people the temperature will quickly begin to rise. Additionally, the act of cooking will add warmth to the home.

Being energy efficient is not at the top of most people's minds when celebrating a holiday. But what was a very happy holiday can turn very sad with the arrival of January bills. This can be prevented. Thinking creatively and careful shopping can help to save money. The money saved can be used for the other dreaded January bill... the credit card.