

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Echoes of the Empire

DECEMBER 2021

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MAKING HOLIDAYS BRIGHT

BY ANDY CARTER MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



ANDY CARTER





As we steadily march on toward the first day of winter, daylight and its accompanying warmth get in short supply and electricity helps make the season warm and bright. In anticipation of the coming holiday celebration, lights are retrieved from storage and are called into service. Cooler temperatures also call for additional electric heat, indoors and out.

Checking your lights before you put them up not only saves you from the unpleasant task of removing them to replace burned out bulbs, but it also gives you a chance to make the sure the insulation, sockets and plugs are in good shape. If you find any issues with a strand, the safe move is to replace it. You will also reap the benefit of using a lot less power. New LED strands use 80% to 90% less power than traditional incandescent strands. Make sure the light strands are rated for the conditions you will use them in and know the power requirements for each strand, especially if you will be using an extension cord. Outdoor lights should always be plugged in to a ground fault circuit interrupter protected outlet.

Extension cords are great for getting power to where it is needed, but they do have their limitations. They are for temporary use and should not be used in place of permanent wiring. Before using an

extension cord, inspect it to make sure it is in good shape and know how much power it can carry. Knowing the power requirements for the light, appliance or tool you are using as well as the capacity of the outlet is important to make sure you have a safe combination. Any part of the power supply that is not large enough will become hot to the point that it may melt the insulation, running the risk of arcing and a fire.

Undersized extension cords can also damage the tool or appliance you are trying to use. The resistance of the extension cord will cause the voltage between the outlet and the end of the cord to drop. To deliver the same amount of power at the end of the cord with lower voltage, the current must increase. Increased current flow means increased heat in the cord and the appliance, and the higher temperatures can cause premature failure of components. Check the label or nameplate on the device you are plugging in to see how much power it uses. If you are operating more than one device at a time using a cord with multiple outlets, you need to add the power requirement for each device to determine the proper cord size. Following these tips and keeping safety in mind can help keep your holiday season merry and bright.

Choosing the Right Extension Cord			Watts = Volts x Amps
Cord Size	Up to 50 Feet	100 Feet	150 Feet
16 Gauge	13 Amps Max	10 Amps Max	
14 Gauge	15 Amps Max	13 Amps Max	
12 Gauge	20 Amps Max	15 Amps Max	
10 Gauge	20 Amps Max	20 Amps Max	



Co-op Photo Contest Winner December 2021 — Ute Mountain Sunset by Linda Archibeque

Monthly Calendar

December 1

Scholarship applications available at eea.coop

December 10

EEA's board meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at its headquarters in Cortez. The agenda is posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at eea.coop. Members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the meeting. Meeting restrictions due to health concerns may require the meeting to be held remotely.

December 13

Youth Tour application deadline

December 23 & 24

EEA offices closed in observance of Christmas holiday

December 31

EEA offices closed in observance of New Year's holiday



SMART RESOURCES

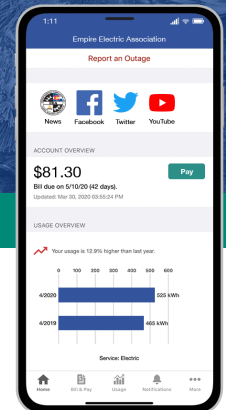
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Saving money, and time, just got easier.

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And with convenient access to your bill anytime, anywhere, doing your part to conserve resources just got easier.

...all in the palm of your hand and online.



Visit www.eea.com/SmartHub for details

2022 ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATE PROGRAM CHANGES

A summary of changes that will impact energy efficiency rebates in 2022 appears below. Full program details will be published next month and will also be added to eea.coop

- Rebate requests with documentation must be submitted within 90 days of purchase.
- Rebates will be paid at the incentive level in the year the rebate is submitted. Rebates must be submitted by 12/30/21 to qualify for 2021 incentive levels.
- Air source heat pumps will change from per ton rebates to two levels of rebates based on size (2 tons ≤ and > 2 tons).
- Outdoor power equipment rebates will include riding lawn mowers and extra batteries purchased with an outdoor power tool.
- Air conditioners and dishwashers will no longer be eligible for rebates, and electric resistance water heaters will qualify only if replacing a propane or natural gas water heater.
- Smart thermostats and whole-house fans will be eligible for rebates.



December 2021

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet — even when they're not in use.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM OUR CO-OP FAMILY
TO YOURS, WISHING YOU
A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR.

EEA WILL BE CLOSED **DECEMBER 23 & 24**
FOR CHRISTMAS, AND **DECEMBER 31** FOR
NEW YEAR'S DAY.



When it comes to severe weather...
hope for the best, but prepare for the worst.



You can begin your preparation by assembling an emergency preparedness kit, which includes items to help keep your family safe and comfortable during a power outage. Your kit should include items such as water, non-perishable food, flashlight, batteries, blankets, and a first aid kit.

 Safe
Electricity.org®

ADD SAFETY TO YOUR HOLIDAY MENU

The kitchen can be a busy place during the holiday season, as families prep and prepare their favorite recipes.

Whether you are a seasoned cook or novice baker, it's important to keep electrical safety in mind. In the United States alone, approximately 1,000 deaths occur each year because of electrical injuries, according to the National Institutes of Health. An additional non-fatal 30,000 shock incidents occur each year.

The following kitchen hazards may cause electric shock:

- Damaged or worn electrical cords
- Equipment and appliances with improper or faulty wiring
- Using damp cloths or water for cooking or cleaning near sources of electricity

The following tips may help prevent electric shock in your home:

- Always read and follow appliance operating instructions.
- Always dry your hands before handling cords or plugs.
- If an unplugged appliance cord gets wet or damp, do not plug it in until it is thoroughly dry.
- Pull on the plug — not the cord — to disconnect an appliance from an outlet.
- To avoid damaging cords, don't run them across walkways or underneath rugs. Draping them over walkways could also create a tripping hazard.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and plugs for damaged insulation and exposed wiring; immediately discard any damaged item. Avoid using any cord or plug that is frayed, cracked, taped or otherwise questionable.
- Do not overload extension cords, multipack "power strips" or surge protectors with too many appliances or other items or plug them into each other. Use them only as a temporary solution — not a permanent one.
- Ensure extension cords, power strips and surge protectors are in good condition and that they are the appropriate gauge for the job (the lower the number, the bigger the gauge and the greater the amperage and wattage).
- Never remove the third (round or U-shaped) prong from a plug, which is a grounding and safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock and electrocution.
- If you have doubts about your home's electrical system, have a licensed electrician evaluate wiring, outlets and switches to verify they are in working order.
- Educate yourself and everyone in your household on how to properly turn off your home's power in case of an emergency.




LEARN MORE ONLINE

Visit safeelectricity.org to learn more tips to help keep you safe this holiday season.




BE SAFE DURING THE HO-HO-HOLIDAYS

10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY

 Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

- 1 Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.
- 2 Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 3 Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 4 Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 5 Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 6 String together no more than the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.
- 7 Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 8 Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 9 Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.
- 10 Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.



Safe Electricity.org LEARN MORE AT:
safeelectricity.org