Midwest Energy, Inc.

Current Comments

November 2018

Making energy work for YOU

Holiday Lighting: Make The Switch to Durable, Efficient LEDs

November means the holiday lighting and decoration season is starting. Midwest Energy wants your holiday lighting to be safe and economical, and offers these tips to help.

Before you begin hanging decorations, take a look at your existing light sets. Is it the same one you've been using for 20 years? If it is, chances are you're overdue for an upgrade. Wire insulation hardens and cracks over the years, posing a fire hazard. If at all possible, invest in LED lights this season.

Why go the LED route? Longevity, safety and cost of operation are the three key reasons. Unlike incandescent lights, whether the large or mini bulb, LEDs will last for many, many years. Expect LEDs to last seven or more years. LEDs have no filaments to burn out, and are cool to the touch, reducing fire risk. Plastic LED bulbs are amazingly durable, unlike glass bulbs that can shatter.

Then there is the cost of operation benefit from LEDs. These technologic gems truly sip electricity. A reasonable estimate of power consumption is 7

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Cold Weather Rule Now In Effect

Midwest Energy complies with the terms of the Kansas Corporation Commission's Cold Weather Rule (CWR). The CWR is in effect from Nov. 1 through March 31.

The CWR allows for special payment and disconnection procedures for any Kansas residential electric or natural gas customer, with an unpaid balance during the cold weather period.

The CWR prohibits disconnection of service when the local National Weather Service forecasts temperatures to fall below 35 degrees in the next 48 hours. To prevent disconnection when it's 35 degrees or above, or to be reconnected, customers must make payment arrangements with Midwest Energy.

For residential customers to avoid service disconnection or to restore service during the CWR period, they must:

1. Inform Midwest Energy of inability to pay the bill in full;
2. Provide sufficient information to Midwest Energy to allow the company to make payment arrangements;

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Apply Now for 2019 Youth Tour

High school juniors looking for leadership experience or something different for their college admissions packet and scholarship applications, are encouraged to apply for the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., June 13-20, 2019.

The trip is unlike any other. Midwest Energy will send five students on an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., along with 40 other Kansas high school youth.

During Youth Tour week, students gain a personal understanding of electric cooperatives, and their contributions to rural America. While in Washington, sudents will see American history up close, and better understand their role as a citizen by meeting their representatives. They visit many historic sites around the nation's capital, learn about the role leadership plays in governance, and

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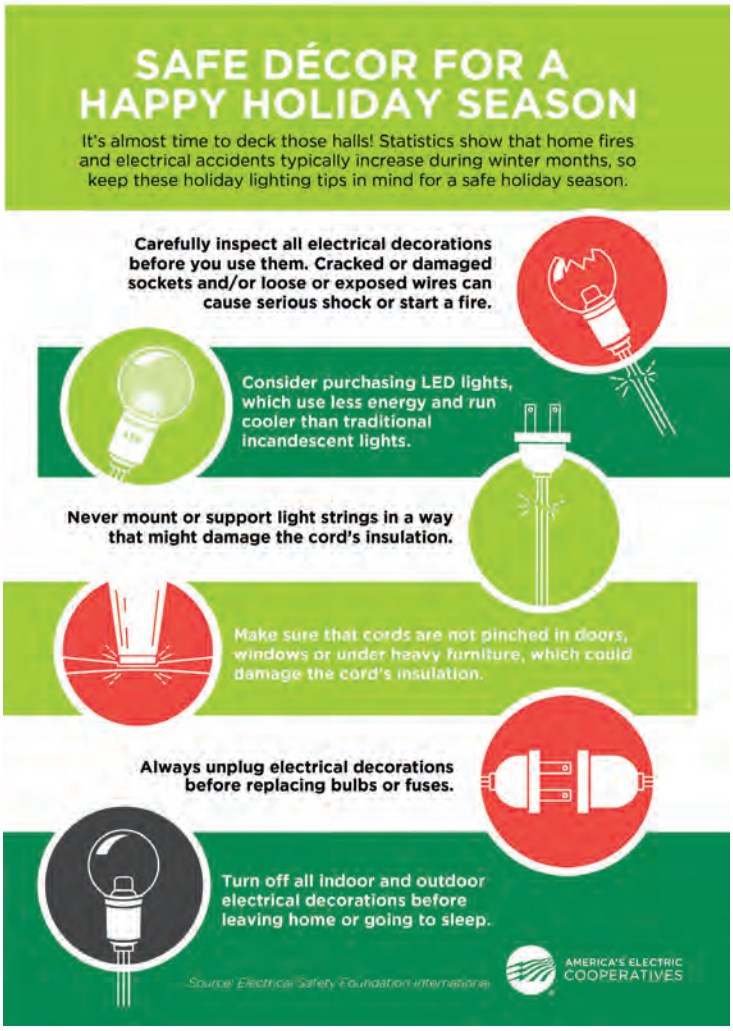
Make the Switch to LED Lights This Holiday Season

watts per 100 lights. How does that compare to the old incandescent bulbs? A string of just 25 C9 bulbs devours 175 watts - 25 times more energy! Despite their slightly higher purchase cost, LEDs will pay for themselves in a couple of seasons.

When hanging your lighting or decorations, safety always comes first. Since most outdoor decorations involve some installation at height, remember:

1. Have a ground crew (one or two people) to steady your ladder and pass up the decorations…an invaluable part of safety and keeping you supplied with untangled light strings, and fasteners.
2. Keep a safe distance from your overhead power lines and your home's electric service line.
3. Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.
4. Check your wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.



Cold Weather Rule

3. Make an initial payment of 1/12 the past due amount, plus 1/12 of the current bill, the full amount of any disconnection or reconnection fees, plus any applicable deposit, and enter into an 11-month plan for payment of the remainder (or enter into a payment plan as negotiated with Midwest Energy for payment of the past due amount); and
4. Apply for any assistance funds for which the customer is eligible. This can include governmental assistance, as well as private programs such as Midwest Customers Care. Customers may request Midwest Energy to send a copy of all bills and notices to a third party.

Midwest Energy will send written notice 10 days before disconnection, plus attempt a phone call or personal contact the day before.

For more information about the CWR, visit www.kcc.ks.gov.

Apply Now for Youth Tour

how they can become leaders in their communities.

Applications are due Feb. 1, 2019. Midwest Energy selects one high school junior for the trip from each Director district. Applicants who are selected will be notified in February, allowing plenty of time to schedule other summer activities around the tour. Students can apply online at www.mwenergy.com > communities > youth tour.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Got holiday leftovers? When possible, use the microwave to reheat food. Microwaves use as much as 80 percent less energy than a standard oven.

Source: energy.gov