

COLUMBUS CURRENTS

Fall and Winter Energy Efficiency

While saving money through greater energy efficiency may be a year-round objective for many consumers, the way to achieve this goal will vary by season. There are a number of factors that impact energy efficiency, including weather, the age and condition of the home, and desired comfort levels. During fall and winter months, when the outdoor temperature is chilly, consumers desire a warm home and seek to keep the cold air out. Conversely, in the spring and summer, the focus is on keeping the hot air from infiltrating cool abodes.

To maintain a warm indoor environment in chillier weather, there are simple steps you can take to increase energy efficiency. Fall is a great time to examine seals on doors and windows to check for air leaks. Caulk and weather-strip as needed to seal in warm air and energy savings. Similarly, examine outlets for air leaks, and where necessary, install gaskets around the outlet to prevent drafts. During the day, open curtains or drapes on south-facing windows to enable sunlight to heat your home naturally. Close curtains or drapes at night for an added layer of window insulation.

As the temperature drops lower with the onset of winter, schedule a service appointment for your heating system to ensure it is operating at an optimal level. Low-cost or no-cost steps for energy savings include taping or affixing heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an

additional barrier against cold air. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration. Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature as low as is comfortable when you are home (ideally around 68 degrees). When you are asleep or away, turn the temperature down 10-15 degrees for eight hours. According to the Department of Energy, this small adjustment can help you save approximately 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs.

Also, during the holiday season lower your holiday lighting cost by using LED light strings to reduce the cost of decorating your home for the winter holidays. Find manufacturers and brands of ENERGY STAR certified decorative light strings.

To learn more about additional energy-saving tips and programs, visit our website, www.columbusco-op.org or contact Columbus Electric Cooperative, Inc. at 1-800-950-2667.



Holiday Safety Crossword Puzzle

This holiday season, remember to keep safety in mind! Complete the crossword puzzle below.
Tip: Use the word bank if you need help.

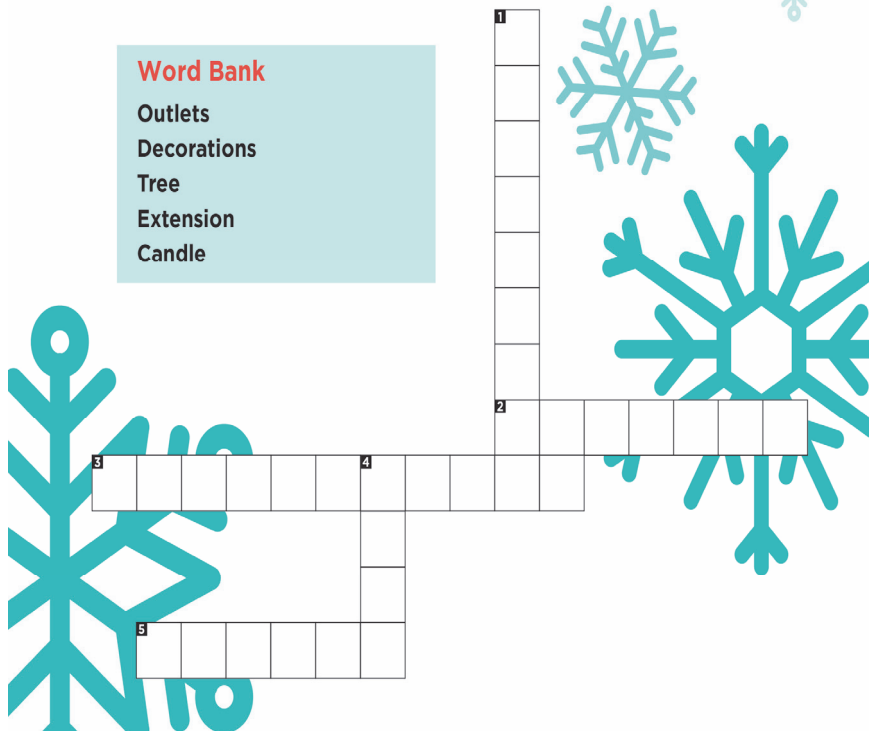


Clues

- 1 Down:** _____ cords used for holiday decorations should be checked for damage or exposed wires.
- 2 Across:** Do not overload electrical _____ with too many decorations or appliances.
- 3 Across:** Turn off all electrical _____ before leaving home or going to sleep.
- 4 Down:** Make sure your Christmas _____ is watered daily.
- 5 Across:** Never leave a _____ burning if you're not in the room.

Word Bank

Outlets
 Decorations
 Tree
 Extension
 Candle



Merry Christmas

May Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness be yours during this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year.

Our office will be closed on the following days in observance of the Christmas and New Year's holiday

December 24-25, 2019

January 1, 2020

24/7 Outage Response

1-800-228-0579



Columbus Electric currently offers a \$30 per unit rebate on new installations of Energy Star rated refrigerators, freezers and clothes washers and a \$20 per unit rebate on new installations of Energy Star rated dishwashers. Rebate applications can be found on our website at www.columbusco-op.org.

Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number
1-800-950-COOP (2667)

www.columbusco-op.org