



TRI-COUNTY

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

" A Commitment to Service and Savings "



Using Your Electric Space Heater Safely

An electric space heater can provide comfort during cold months, especially in garages, workshops and other areas that may not have central heating. Using space heating requires some attention to safety as well as comfort. Before you purchase an electric space heater make sure it has the following safety features.

- An automatic safety switch that will turn the unit off if it is tipped over.
- An overheat sensor that shuts off the heater if it gets too hot.
- A low surface temperature to protect family and pets from burns.
- A screen or grill to prevent kids from reaching inside with fingers or toys.
- A label or tag noting the heater has been tested and approved by an independent testing lab.

If you already have a space heater check it to make sure it offers the above safety features.

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Check the power cord for worn insulation, look carefully for weather cracks or hard brittle areas along the length of the cord. If you find a problem, don't try to repair it with tape and never attempt to replace the cord yourself.

Never use an extension cord with an electric space heater.

Keep the heater away from water sources or damp places to avoid potentially deadly electric shock.

Keep the heater at least three feet away from curtains, sofas, magazine racks or any other potentially flammable surface.

Remember that a small 1500 watt space heater is capable of using 1,080 kWh if placed in an area where it will run continuously for 30 days. At a cost of 10 cents per kWh, one heater can use \$108.00 worth of electricity.

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LED Decorative Lighting Strings Brighten Holidays With Less Electricity



Energy STAR Qualified Decorative Light Strings:

- LED lighting can last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent strands.
- LED lighting uses less electricity and the bulbs remain cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.
- LED light strands are available in a variety of colors, shapes and lengths.
- Some models deliver features such as dimming, color shifting and motion.

Energy Saving Facts:

ENERGY STAR qualified decorative light strings many, of which feature LED technology, consume 75% less energy than conventional incandescent light strands.

A traditional mini incandescent light string with 300 lights cost about \$4.50 in electricity cost over the holiday season. In comparison, the LED equivalent costs only \$0.43 to operate. This is an annual savings of over \$4 per each 300 light string!

If all decorative light strings sold in America this year were ENERGY STAR qualified, we would save over 2 billion kWh per year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to nearly 300,000 cars!

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Use Your Fireplace Safely &

Efficiently This Winter!

The fireplace provides a warm atmosphere for family and friends. It can also be the cause for significant heat loss when operated along with the central system. Your Cooperative recommends that you only use the fireplace when the central system is switched off. If you are unable to keep the home warm with the fireplace, allow it to burn down, remove the hot embers, close the fireplace damper and turn on the central unit. A home owner would never consider trying to operate the central heater with a window wide open, but an open fireplace damper can actually be worse. The vertical design of the chimney provides the best path for hot air attempting to escape the home. Glass fireplace doors restrict air loss up the chimney but not entirely. A close inspection of those doors will reveal more than ample opportunity for air to escape.

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Make sure your damper is closing tight by inspecting it with a flashlight. If the damper is missing or broken, there are a number of repair kits available at most fireplace hardware centers. The next time you start a fire, walk outside and take note of the amount of smoke coming from the chimney. Then remember that for every cubic foot of smoke up the chimney, an outside cubic foot of cold air had to infiltrate into the home to replace it.

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If you have a question concerning your home's energy efficiency, contact your Cooperative and talk with a Member Services Representative.

Holiday Closing

The TCEC business offices will be closed on November 26th and 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday. Emergency service is available by contacting the telephone numbers listed at the bottom right corner of this page. We want to wish all of our members a **Happy Thanksgiving** and if your holiday plans include long trips to see family and friends, remember to buckle up and drive safely!

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It Pays To Stay Informed!

Find your account number in our Member Information Bulletin and you will receive a \$20.00 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed below and make them aware of your discovery.

It pays to stay informed!

From The Cooperative Kitchen



This month's recipe was provided by Sandra Sampley from Azle. She will receive a 60 Years of Home Cooking Cookbook, compliments of TCEC.



TATER TOT CASSEROLE

... INGREDIENTS ...

2 - Pounds Extra Lean Ground Beef

2 - Cans of Cream of Mushroom Soup

1 - Cup Grated Cheddar Cheese (7 to 8 Ounces)

1 - Package Frozen Tater Tots. (Aprox 2 Lbs.)

... DIRECTIONS ...

Pat ground beef in bottom of a greased 13 X 9 X 2 inch pan. Spread soup over meat and cover with grated cheese. Top off the pan with tater tots.

Cover the pan and place in a preheated oven at 350 degrees. Bake covered dish for 45 minutes and the remove cover and bake for an additional 15 minutes.

This is a quick and hearty meal that makes a cold evening much warmer. This recipe should feed 8 to 10 people.

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