



# TIPS From T.I.P.

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**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

**December 2021**

**Brooklyn, Iowa**

## Holiday Décor Tips for an Energy-Wise Home

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them more resistant to breaking-and they're cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!

If you missed Santa's memo about energy saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased through online retailers or at hardware stores. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on an off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.



If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a

little twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (essentially free!) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30-and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Like us on **Facebook** for additional energy-saving tips.



*Your Board of Directors and Employees wish you and your family a Happy, Blessed and Safe Christmas season.*

*We look forward to lighting your way in 2022!*

### Your T.I.P. Board of Directors:

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**NOTICE:** Your REC office will be closed Thursday, December 23rd, Friday, December 24th and Friday, December 31st to observe the holidays.

### T.I.P. Rural Electric

Regular Hours 7:30 to 4:00 Weekdays..... 641-522-9221  
or Toll Free..... 800-934-7976

website: [www.tiprec.com](http://www.tiprec.com)

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## December TIPS from T.I.P.

### Help us Locate the Owners of These Unclaimed Patronage Refund Checks (Continued from November newsletter)

The following is the remainder of the list of members whom we are unable to find since we made patronage payments for **25% of 2004, 75% of 2005, and 10% of 2020** on August 13, 2021. Please notify the office if you know the correct address for anyone listed. If one of the former members listed is deceased, we need to know the name of an heir to contact.

Please feel free to contact the cooperative if you should have any questions.

Meyer, John or Kimberly, Blanchardville, WI  
Meyer, Marjorie D., Des Moines  
Midwest Wireless, Mankato, MN  
Mikasa Factory Store #48, Spokane, WA  
Miler, Eugene B., Tama  
Miller, Jerry K., Mesa, AZ  
Miller, L Gene, Belle Plaine  
Morarie, Mark or Julie, Brooklyn  
Mothers Work Inc., Spokane, WA  
Music for a Song #57, Marietta, GA  
Myers, Justin, Sigourney  
Nautica of Williamsburg #70, New York, NY  
Nicholi, Maria, Tama  
O'Rourke, Sandy, North English  
Osborne Jr., Leslie G., Marshalltown  
Outlet Retail Stores Inc., Westbury, NY  
Papakee Sr., Clyde, Tama  
Patterson, Steve, Millersburg  
Pearce, Bill or Kelly, Ankeny  
Pearson, Chester C., Marion  
Peters, David A., Tama  
Pfaltzgraff, Westbury, NY  
Pfister, Mike, Homestead  
Pinny, Mrs. Ronald, Marshalltown  
Popenhagen, Robert Duane, Grinnell  
Powell, Dan, % Kathryn Troyer, Waxhaw, NC  
Powell, Gertrude K., South English  
Power, Pat, Prescott, WI  
Poweshiek, Eugene, Tama  
Premier Home Center, Marengo  
Pritchett, Helen, Tama  
Ramsey, H Richard, Des Moines  
Read, Darlene, Williamsburg  
Reed, Brian, Sigourney  
Reichert, Janet M., Dysart  
Reynolds, Harold, Oskaloosa  
Rieck, Jeremy, Coralville  
Rinehart Construction, West Des Moines  
Rosenberger, Betsie K., Cedar Rapids  
Ruby Field Inc., % Ed Grafke, Sigourney  
Rue 21 Inc., Spokane, WA

Salyars, William R. or Julie, Cedar Rapids  
Samuelson, Rich, Brooklyn  
Sanders, David P., Barnes City  
Sanders, Janice, Williamsburg  
Sara Lee Direct, Rural Hall, NC  
Mary Jo Ann Schulte for the account of Mrs. Francis A. Schott, Shoreline, WA  
Schulte, Peter J., Ladora  
Sellers, David or Karen, Brooklyn  
Shadden, Roger D., Toledo  
Shaffer, Shelly, North English  
Shelby, Monica, Dana, KY  
Shogren, Janice, Belle Plaine  
Sinclair, Edward B., Grinnell  
Smith, Karen, Millersburg  
Smith, Matt, Marengo  
Smith, Michael or Tabitha, Oskaloosa  
Sorensen, Mrs. Eldon R., Grinnell  
Sorensen, Jane E., Grinnell  
Southgate Development, Iowa City  
Spears, Jessica, Hedrick  
Spray, Sherri, Bettendorf  
Steenhoek, Judy, Manitowish Wtr, WI  
Steinbeck, John W., Bloomfield  
James C. Stevens for the account of James F. or Mary Stevens, Toledo  
Stevens, Thomas E., Omaha, NE  
Tandy, Mrs. John R., Williamsburg  
Taylor, Hurschel, Brooklyn  
Teckenburg, Garrick, North English  
Tee, Frances E., Grinnell  
Thatcher, Rita, Williamsburg  
Thompson, Michael, Brooklyn  
Thompson, Shirley A., Iowa City  
Tinnis, Zachary or Mike, Harper  
Tomasek, John, % Roland and Dieleman, Grinnell  
Triple R Driving School, Coralville  
Tri-State Outdoor Media Group, Inc., Tifton, GA  
Trimpe, Scott, Homestead  
Turpin, David or Sue, Ottumwa  
Tweed, Gordon E., Montour  
Ultra Diamond and Gold Outlet Store #115, Chicago, IL  
Vajgrt, Martin or Mabel E., Marshalltown  
Van De Walle, Hazel M., Tama  
Vargason, Terry J. or Susan E. Mellecker, Iowa City  
Veit, Cindy, Winter Park, FL  
Vogel, Roger, Indianola  
Vokoun, Harold E., Kansas City, MO  
Von Ahsen, Shelly, Williamsburg  
Vos, Ryan or Patsy Cline, Oskaloosa  
Steven Vojtech for the account of Donald P. Vojtech, Grinnell  
Wagamon, Whitney, Ottumwa  
Walden, David or Stacey, Tiffin  
Walker, Tyrone, Fort Dodge  
Wallace, Mrs. Edward E., Iowa City  
Wallace, Leon V., Bondurant

Walters, Franklin "Buzz", Webster  
Wanatee, Marcus, Tama  
Warnell, Merry L., Ottumwa  
Wedemeyer, Zac, North English  
Welcome Home, Wilmington, NC  
Weldon, Mrs. James L., Iowa City  
White, Ken, North Liberty  
Wilkinson, Gary L., North Liberty  
Williams, Steve A., Brooklyn  
Williams Rentals, Williamsburg  
Wilson, Laurel A., Amana  
Wintringer, Pete, Brooklyn  
Wolf, Michael or Jacqueline, Belle Plaine  
Wright, Wayne or Annette, Parnell  
Youngbear, Dan, Marshalltown  
Young Bear Jr., Ellsworth, Tama  
Youngbear, James, Toledo  
Youngbear, Jon P., Tama

## Prepare Your Home For Old Man Winter

Heavy accumulations of ice and snow coupled with fluctuating winter temperatures can bring down utility poles, trees and limbs with the ability to disrupt power for days on end. With this comes a threat to property and also to life itself.

Utilities are devoted to restoring power to customers, but severe damage can take days or weeks to repair. *Safe Electricity* wants you to know how to stay safe and comfortable during winter power outages so begin preparation now. Your home should be properly insulated, with caulking and weather-stripping around doors, windows, and other cracks. If you have trees with limbs that could fall on power lines, the limbs should be trimmed by your utility or other professional.

You should also have an emergency kit ready to go. The kit should have flashlights, a radio, batteries, nonperishable food, water, medicines, and extra blankets. Also, if you have medical issues that require electricity be sure to have a backup plan ready.

When a storm hits and you are without power, keep the following in mind:

- Avoid going outside. Power lines and other energized equipment could be hidden by snow, ice and debris.
- Treat all downed lines as energized, and dangerous. Downed power lines do not have to be sparking, arcing or moving to be dangerous.
- Switch off lights and appliances to prevent damaging appliances and overloading circuits when power is restored. Leave one lamp or light switch on as a signal for when power returns.
- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves just in case a pipe bursts.
- Dress in warm, layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms and close curtains at night.
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate. Always keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.
- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants or elderly persons are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends, relatives or in a shelter if you can't keep your home warm.
- Consider installing ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) for electrical outlets that might be affected by melting snow or ice to prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries.

Hopefully you won't have to endure an extended power outage this winter but if you do, a little knowledge and preparation can make it less stressful.

## State Law Requires Notification of Alternate Energy Production

In 2012, the Iowa Legislature approved a bill that requires notification to electric utilities prior to installing an alternate energy generator. The notification requirement applies to any type of electric generating technology including:



- solar
- wind turbine
- waste management
- resource recovery
- refuse-derived fuel
- agricultural crops and residue

Under this legislation, the owner of an alternate energy production facility must provide **written** notification to their electric utility at least 30 days before construction or installation of the generator.

If you are considering installing an alternate energy system - please contact T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative at 800-934-7976. Let us provide information and assistance **BEFORE** making the decision to purchase any type of alternate energy system that requires interconnection with the electric grid.

## Deck the Halls Safely

There's nothing like putting up lights and decorations to get you in the holiday spirit. It's something that many do each and every year without incident, yet the holidays are also one of the most hazardous times of the year when it comes to electrical fires and accidents.

*Safe Electricity* offers several tips as you deck the halls this holiday season:

- When decorating outside, look up and around for power lines. Never throw light or other decorations into trees near power lines.
- Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least ten feet from power lines.
- Match plugs with outlets. Do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.
- Outside, use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use them. Ensure outdoor outlets or extension cords are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI's).
- Never string more strands of lights together than recommended by the manufacturer.
- Do not staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords. Use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights.
- Do not attach cords to utility poles.

The outside of your home is not the only place where you need to be cautious of electrical dangers. Use care when placing and decorating trees inside your home. Place fresh-cut and artificial trees away from heat sources such as registers, fireplaces, and radiators and water fresh-cut trees frequently. Remember to turn your Christmas lights off before you go to bed or use a timer.

For more information on holiday safety tips visit, [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



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**Attention:** We were notified by several neighboring co-op's that solar companies are actively marketing home energy solutions around the state of Iowa. This has spread into our T.I.P. service territory and unfortunately some have given out misinformation about our interconnection policies. It is very important for you to contact us **BEFORE** you're considering the installation of a solar array at your service. Some of these companies use "creative marketing" that we can assist you in sorting out so please call our office if you have any questions.



**\*\*More details to follow in your January newsletter.**

**NOTICE:** The Brooklyn office will be closed on Tuesday, December 14th from 8:00 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. for an all-employee safety meeting.

## 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.

## Non-Discrimination Statement

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

TIPS from T.I.P. is published monthly for members of T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative, 612 W. Des Moines St., Brooklyn, Iowa 52211.