



Electrical safety tips for kids

At Pitt & Greene EMC we understand your child’s health and well-being are your top priority. With more than 140,000 electrical fires occurring each year, knowledge of electrical safety is necessary to ensuring your loved ones stay safe. Here are a few tips you can share with your little ones:

* Electrical fires are caused when a wire or electrical device overheats. It is important to make sure your children understand that water cannot extinguish this type of fire. Only fire extinguishers can be used to remedy this situation.

* In addition to the previous tip, it is never a good idea to mix water with electricity. Keep blow dryers, radios and any other electrical devices away from all water, especially those used in a bathroom.

* Keep metal objects out of appliances and plugs. If a piece of toast gets stuck in the toaster, never use a metal knife to retrieve it. Unplug the toaster, and use a different tool or utensil to remove the toast. Remember, only plugs should go in outlets. Sticking fingers or other objects in outlets may result in an electrical shock.

* It’s always a good idea to turn lights off when they are not in use. This will save your family money on your electric bill and prevent electrical fires from overheated bulbs.

Kids will be kids, and they love the great outdoors. Remind them to avoid overhead power lines. Whether they are climbing trees or flying kites or remote-controlled toys, they should always be mindful of what is above. Talk to your children about the importance of electrical safety, and more importantly, lead by example – because you never know who’s watching.



Prepare for Summer Heat, Increase Energy Savings

Adding a few items to your list of spring chores can help make your home more energy efficient and deliver electric bills that won’t make you sweat when temperatures soar.

Spring and early summer are good times to make sure that your air conditioning unit is ready to work when you flip the switch:

- Get help from a professional who can inspect and service your unit.
- Give your air conditioner a do-it-yourself cleaning. Shut the unit off, and clear away leaves and yard debris outside. Inside the unit, clean or replace filters that can restrict air flow and reduce overall efficiency by making the air conditioner work harder on hot summer days. Dust the fan blades if you can do so safely. Make sure air can flow freely over the inside and outside coils. Vacuum registers to remove any dust buildup.

• Check weather stripping. When using window units, ensure that weather stripping is in place. Placement should be between the middle of the top window pane and the bottom pane.

Check out your roof. See how well your roof has weathered the winter. Few things can shorten the life of your home faster than a roof leak, even a minor one can damage your attic insulation before you know it. A roofing professional can assess and repair things like loose or missing shingles, repair leaks, and clear gutters.

Happy Fathers Day!
Sunday, June 18, 2017





Manager's Message

By: Mark A. Suggs

In late March, President Donald Trump signed the “Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth” executive order. The order aims to reduce regulatory barriers to domestic energy production. It also begins the lengthy process of suspending components of the Clean Power Plan, a rule implemented under President Obama to reduce carbon emissions from power plants. What does this mean for members of Pitt & Greene EMC?

As a utility, Pitt & Greene EMC is subject to regulations set by both the state and federal governments. And while pieces of the Clean Power Plan will likely be rolled back, other federal and state standards, like the North Carolina Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard, are likely to remain in place.

President Trump’s executive order on energy now faces administrative, regulatory and legal processes that could take years to complete. Regardless of the timeline on that particular issue, Pitt & Greene EMC will continue to engage with local and state policymakers, and participate in federal policy processes along with our national cooperative network. We support policies that allow us to best serve our local members by incorporating into our energy portfolio multiple cost-effective generation resources, including solar and grid enhancements.

Policy activities, as well as various forces in the market, technology and consumer expectations are driving changes in the industry. Together, over the last decade, these elements have guided utilities’ decisions to make modifications and incorporate alternative sources of generation to reduce our overall carbon footprint.

We will continue to seek solutions and find proven technologies to bolster our distribution system, with the goal of serving the growing needs of cooperative members and our service territory. While mitigating cost increases in a changing environment.

We will continue to work with electric cooperatives nationwide to advocate on behalf of members in the halls of government, and help elected officials understand how legislative and regulatory actions can impact electric cooperative members. And above all, we will continue to pursue strategies that best serve you – our members.

Make Your Yard Work Hard For You

Location, location, location is the mantra in real estate, but it also applies to your yard this time of year when the search is on to lower energy bills and create curb appeal. Positioning the right combination of plants and trees can yield shade, beautify, and unearth energy savings. Energy-efficient landscaping, claims the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), can on average, provide enough energy savings to see a return on your initial investment in less than eight years.

Again, think location. Carefully positioned trees can reduce a household's energy consumption for heating and cooling by up to 25 percent. Using computer models, the DOE determined that proper placement of only three trees on your property can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in yearly energy costs. This spring, make your yard work for you. Just a few simple landscaping considerations can make a big difference in your home's comfort and in the efficiency of your heating and cooling systems:

- Use trees and plants to shade a window air conditioner. Having shade can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent. For good airflow and access, position plants more than three feet from the air conditioner.
- Shrubs and trees can form windbreaks or protective walls that keep wind chill away from a home. That's important because wind speed lowers outside air temperatures, and ultimately saves on higher heating costs. Common turf grass and other low-growing plants are ideal barriers. So are evergreens, especially when combined with a wall or fence to deflect or even lift wind over a home. For best protection, plan on leaving between two to five times the mature height of the trees or shrubs between the windbreak and the protected home.

Indoors, you may be protected from the sun's rays, but your energy bill can rise as your air conditioner works harder to keep your house cool and comfortable. Planting shade trees can add to your comfort at home by dropping the surrounding air temperature by as much as nine degrees Fahrenheit. But choosing just the right tree may require a compass and patience while they grow to work for you:

- When selecting shade trees, keep in mind the mature height of the tree and the shape of its shade canopy in relation to the height of your home. These factors are important because they should influence how far from the house you decide to plant a tree. Always avoid planting near underground utility lines.
- Shading takes time—a 6-foot to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near a house will begin shading windows in a year. Depending on the species and the home, the tree will shade the roof in 5 to 10 years.
- Make planting shade trees due west of west-facing windows your first priority.
- Select a tree that can be planted within 20 feet of the window and that will grow at least 10 feet taller than that window. If you have the space, use as many trees as needed to create a continuous row along all major west- and east-facing windows.
- Contrary to intuition, the least energy efficient place for a tree is to the south of a house. Different trees can serve a variety of purposes. To block summer heat while letting sun filter through in the winter months, use deciduous trees or those that lose their leaves seasonally. Evergreens and shrubs, on the other hand, are ideal for providing continuous shade and blocking heavy winds. Also, keep in mind that not all shade plants are tall. Shrubs and sturdy groundcover plants also provide good shade by reducing heat radiation and cooling air before it reaches your home's walls and windows.

Start planting savings and let your yard do all the work—a well-placed tree, shrub, or vine can deliver effective shade, act as a windbreak, and reduce your energy bills.



Important Sales and Use Tax Notice

A purchaser (farmers, manufacturers and commercial laundries) that is eligible for a preferential tax rate on electricity should complete and furnish the seller/electricity supplier Form E-595E, Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement Certificate of Exemption, to take advantage of qualifying reductions.

Tamper Resistant Receptacles

They may look like standard outlets, but tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, are different. Their most distinguishable feature – a built-in shutter system that prevents foreign objects from being inserted – sets them apart. Only a plug that applies simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots will disengage the cover plates, allowing access to the contact points. Without this synchronized pressure, the cover plates remain closed.

While a child’s curiosity knows no boundaries, it can sometimes put them in peril, especially when electricity is involved. Located in practically every room of the house, electrical outlets and receptacles are fixtures, but they also represent potential hazards for children.

In recent years, more homes have been equipping their electrical outlets with TRRs, but in many public facilities, like hospital pediatric wards, these safeguards have been required for more than 20 years. Their efficiency also prompted the National Electrical Code to make TRRs standard in all new home construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician and should carry a label from a nationally recognized, independent testing lab such as UL, ETL, or CSA.

Each year 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns resulting from inserting objects into the slots of electrical receptacles. That’s nearly seven children a day. It is estimated that 6-12 child fatalities result from children tampering electrical receptacles. Installing a TRR in a newly constructed home is only about 50 cents more than a traditional receptacle. Existing homes can be retrofitted with TRRs for as little as \$2.00 per outlet.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk and weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

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