

THE 12 DAYS OF HOLIDAY DECORATING SAFETY



Oakdale Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

On the first day of Christmas, Oakdale Electric Cooperative gave to me: 12 tips on holiday decorating safety!

12 Outlet Safety Caps

Cover any unused electrical outlets with plastic safety caps to prevent electrical shock.

11 Battery-Operated Candles

Candles start one-third of home decoration fires [National Fire Protection Association]. Keep it merry, bright, and safe by using battery-operated candles.

10 Feet of Space

Be especially careful when decorating near power lines. Keep ladders, equipment, and yourself at least 10 feet away for safety.

9 Light Clips

Avoid using staples, nails, or screws

to fasten lights and decorations to the house or to nearby trees as they can puncture the wires, causing the lights to malfunction, or worse, cause electrical shock. Instead, opt to use light clips to secure safely.

8 Hours of Darkness

Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed. Automatic timers are available for both indoor and outdoor applications.

7 Days a Week of Watering

Water a real Christmas tree daily. [When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label fire-resistant.]

6 Properly Marked Extension Cords

Extension cords are specifically marked for indoor or outdoor use, and are not interchangeable. Use the right cord for the right location.

5 GFCI Protected Outlets

Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If circuits are not GFCI-protected, portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold and require no special knowledge or equipment to install.

4 Point Light Inspection

Inspect each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Use only lights that have been tested for safety. Identify these by the label from an independent testing laboratory. Repair them before using or RECYCLE at the co-op this year! Read more on page 18 about our free Christmas Lights Recycling Program!

3 Strands Per Outlet

Never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights together, and consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights. LED lights also last up to 25 times longer and use 75 percent less electricity.

2 Types of Ladders

Use wooden or fiberglass ladders when decorating outdoors. Metal ladders conduct electricity and could be hazardous.

1 Well-Sealed Container

When the holiday season is over, store all outdoor and indoor lights in a well-sealed container to prevent water damage and rodent access.



Jeanette Ewing, Tomah



Jilene Luedtke, Tomah



Stephanie Sommerfield, Tomah



Kenneth Hansen, Tomah



Kaysie Holloway, Tomah



Lyle Frye, Tomah



Sandra Baumgarten, Tomah



Lois and Arden Eberhardt, Kendall

CO-OP COMES TO YOU

Oakdale Electric hosted the Co-op Comes to You gift basket giveaway contest in October that collected 800 entries from members across the five-county service territory. Fifty members won an insulated cooler that contained goods from fellow cooperative businesses including pancake mix, syrup, coffee, craft sign, popcorn, ice cream, and a tree. To ensure members' safety, the gift baskets were delivered to each member's residence by cooperative employees. "To go the extra mile and deliver to our member's front door, and personally thank them for their membership, is what stands our co-op apart," stated program organizer, Deana Protz.

To view the complete listing of all winners and cooperative businesses supported, visit oakdalerec.com/member-appreciation-day.

Raymond Luedke, Warrens



Kenneth Ahlman, New Lisbon



Margaret Bodzianowski, New Lisbon



Cynthia Orsan, Mauston



Cheryl Lange, Elroy



Dan Hoag, Tomah



Debra Rice, Elroy



MY CO-OP





CO-OP COLLECTION HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING DRIVE



Do you have a pile of holiday lights that don't work anymore? Or maybe you're replacing with ENERGY STAR LED lights because they are 75% more energy efficient than incandescent, and last 25% longer, too. Perhaps you just don't decorate as much as you used to, and want to clear out some clutter. No matter what the reason, don't throw out your holiday lights—RECYCLE them at the co-op!

**December 1–
February 1, 2021**

**489 N. Oakwood St.,
Tomah, WI 54660**

*(collection bins located at
the co-op's front entrance)*

Please remove light strands from bags and boxes and place them into the bins.




DIRECTOR NOMINATION PETITION FORMS DUE DECEMBER 20, 2020

Directors representing Districts 2, 4, and 5 will be up for election at the 2021 annual meeting. If you live in one of these districts and you're interested in serving on the Oakdale Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, collect 15 signatures on a petition nomination form and return the form to Oakdale Electric by December 20. Contact Cherlyn Moseley at 608-372-4131 to obtain a petition nomination form.

Chris Tackmann, General Manager/CEO

P.O. Box 40, Oakdale, WI 54649


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   info@oakdalerec.com

Deana Protz, Editor



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Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
24-Hour Emergency Power Restoration: 800-927-6151
Toll-free Online Bill Payment 866-392-4307

Diggers Hotline: For underground cable locates and power line clearance information, call 800-242-8511.