

Marietta



Power

Water



November 2013

Connected

Keep the "Happy" in Your Holidays by Using Seasonal Lighting Safely

Seasonal lighting can bring big cheer to your home throughout holidays. Don't let smiles turn into frowns because of accidents involving unsafe use of holiday lights. Keep these tips in mind when decking the halls, walls and more this season:

- Dispose of older incandescent lights and buy new LED holiday lights. The wire insulation on older lights can erode and pose a fire hazard. Older strings of incandescent holiday lights can also use up to 99 percent more energy than new LED light strings.
- Always unplug holiday lights before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Don't overload your circuits. Check your fuse box or circuit breaker panel to see how much load you can add to your house and stay within the limits to reduce the risk of fire.

- Outdoor lights should always be plugged into a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI or GFI) outlet or breaker.
- Do not use indoor lights for outdoor lighting displays. Indoor holiday lights are not designed to withstand extreme hot and cold temperatures.
- When using strings of lights that plug into each other, never use more than three piggyback plugs.
- Don't use electrical ornaments or lights on artificial trees with metallic leaves.

Help ensure happy memories this holiday season by using a little precaution with seasonal lighting. 💧

A Change in Seasons Doesn't Have to Mean a Change in your Utility Bills 10 Smart Tips for Saving on Cool Weather Energy Costs



The cooler weather may have you thinking about ways to maximize your energy dollars this season. Here are ten tips that can help give you a sigh of relief when your utility bills arrive this fall and winter.

1. Have your furnace inspected by a heating professional. During the heating season, change or clean furnace filters once a month.
2. Open south-facing window curtains, drapes and blinds during the day. Close window treatments at night to help keep the heat in.

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3. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for about eight hours — you can save around 10 percent a year on your heating bills.
4. If you use your fireplace, install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
5. Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible. Close the damper when the fireplace is not in use.
6. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F).
7. Check window frames for cracks and fill them with caulk that contains silicon. Putty, rope-like caulk can help seal large cracks and save you up to 5 percent on your energy bill.
8. Install tight fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that still feel drafty after weatherizing.
9. Make sure that heating vents are not blocked by furniture or draperies and keep registers dirt and dust free.
10. Consider increasing the amount of insulation in your attic, basement and outside walls. Also cover wall air conditioners to prevent cold air from leaking into your home.

For more tips on saving energy, visit the Marietta Power and Water website at www.mariettagov.com. 💧

Don't Let Warm Air and Money Seep through the Cracks this Winter

Air leaks can be one of the biggest drains on your utility budget. To test your home for air tightness, on a windy day hold a lit incense stick or a smoke pen next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes and outlets, attic hatches, and other places where air may leak. If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have located an air leak. Other leak indicators include dirty spots on your ceiling paint and carpet that may mean air leaks at interior wall/ceiling joints and wall/floor joists. If you do have leaks, here's what you can do to stop wasting good air and good money:

- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows that leak air. Also caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, or electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.
- Install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on walls.
- Inspect dirty spots in your insulation for air leaks and mold. Seal leaks with low-expansion spray foam made for this purpose and install house flashing if needed.
- Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards, and other places where air may be escaping.
- Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones featuring pliable sealing gaskets.
- Seal air leaks around fireplace chimneys, furnaces, and gas-fired water heater vents with fire-resistant materials such as sheet metal or sheetrock and furnace cement caulk.

For more information on maximizing your energy dollars, visit the Marietta Power and Water website at www.mariettagov.com. 💧

Calendar

Every Thursday, Friday and Saturday year round.

Ghosts of Marietta Walking Ghosts Tour

For more information call (770) 425-1006 or visit www.ghostsofmarietta.com.

December 7 and 8 27th Annual Marietta Pilgrimage

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tickets can be purchased for day tours, candlelight tours, or a combination ticket including both.
For more information visit www.mariettagov.com or call (770) 429-1115.

December 5 Christmas Tree Lighting

5 to 8 p.m.
Glover Park in Marietta Square Festivities kick off at 5 p.m.
Santa will light the giant Christmas tree at 6 p.m.
Call (770) 794-5601 for more information or visit www.mariettagov.com.

Weekends in December starting Saturday, December 7.

Santa on the Square

For more information and Santa's Hours visit www.mariettasquare.com or call (770) 794-5601.

Marietta Power and Water will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

For a complete list of City of Marietta events, please visit www.mariettagov.com and click on Calendar of Events.

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