



Keeping appliances and light fixtures clean saves energy and reduces fire risk. Resolve to set up a regular schedule to keep them all clean and bright year-round.

Five New Year's Resolutions for Your Home

- 1 Clean every appliance in your house.** Your refrigerator's coils can get dusty and clogged, which makes it work harder—and that's an unnecessary waste of energy. The inside of your microwave oven should be spotless; if it's not, then the machine is using energy to "cook" leftover food particles that nobody's going to eat. Even your dishwasher and washing machine need cleaning—inside and out—to prevent mold and clogs.
- 2 Snake your clothes dryer vent.** Do this at least twice a year to rid it of lint and debris, which can catch on fire if it clogs the vent and prevents airflow. And be sure to clean the lint screen after each use.
- 3 Clear the area around your water heater and your outdoor air-conditioning unit.** Appliances give off heat and take in air. If you've got boxes, suitcases, Christmas decorations or plants stacked up against them, they can't do their jobs efficiently.
- 4 Have your heating and air-conditioning systems checked out** by an HVAC professional, who can tell you if they need repairs. Ask the tech to check your filters and change them if they're clogged with dust.
- 5 Change the batteries in all of your home's smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.** If you don't have those devices, move this item to the top of your list of resolutions and install them today.

Thieves Pose as Cooperative Subcontractors

IN LATE NOVEMBER, a Coleman County Electric Cooperative member noticed a pickup truck on their property. When the member approached the men and inquired as to their purpose for being on the property, the men told the CCEC member they were subcontractors for the cooperative. The member was satisfied with their answer and left the property, returning several hours later only to discover a significant amount of equipment containing copper was missing.

Please be aware that CCEC seldom uses subcontractors to perform work for the cooperative. Should someone be on your property claiming to be a subcontractor for CCEC, please call the cooperative at (325) 625-2128 to verify if there are CCEC subcontractors in your area.

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

■
Coleman County EC
will be closed
Thursday, January 1,
to allow employees
to ring in the new year
with their families.

■
We wish you and yours
a healthy, prosperous
and happy new year!

Stay Safe and Warm During a Winter Storm

LAST YEAR SHOWED US HOW THE POLAR VORTEX can bring high winds, subzero temperatures and ice to many parts of the country, even those that aren't accustomed to winter weather. This dangerous winter weather can cause hazardous road conditions, downed power lines and extended power outages. Be sure to stay safe before, during and after a winter storm hits.

If power lines go down because of a winter storm, you may be in for a prolonged power outage as utility crews work to get the lights back on.

The National Weather Service tells us that winter storms are deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to storms. Many hazards can remain after a winter storm is gone.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative offers tips on how to stay safe and warm during a winter power outage:

Stay inside and dress warmly. Close off unneeded rooms and place draft blocks at the bottom of doors to minimize cold air entering the house. Cover windows at night.

Be aware of the temperature in your home. Infants and elderly people are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm enough.

When the power is restored, there will be a power surge. To protect your circuits and appliances, switch off lights and unplug appliances. Leave one light switched on as a signal that the power is restored.

Apart from the cold, there are other dangers winter storms can bring. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice, making them difficult to see. Therefore, you and your family should stay indoors if possible.

If you must go outside, use caution and treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized. Stay away, warn others to stay away, and immediately contact your utility company if you see downed lines.

Be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. This kit includes: bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, a first aid kit/medicine, a flashlight, a radio, extra batteries and toiletries.

If you are using an alternative heating source during a power outage, be sure that you know how to use it safely and that you have already gathered all the supplies for it. You should have enough supplies in your preparedness kit to last everyone in your household three to seven days.



Dangerous winter weather can cause hazardous road conditions, downed power lines and extended power outages.

SafeElectricity.org



Coleman County Electric Cooperative

3300 N. Highway 84 • P.O. Box 860
Coleman, TX 76834

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Coke, Concho, Runnels, Taylor and Tom Green counties

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Contact Us

CALL US AT

(325) 625-2128 local

1-800-560-2128 toll-free

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY

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FIND US ON THE WEB

colemanelectric.org

Power Tip

They're out of sight, but don't forget about your air ducts. Taking care of them can save money and energy.

Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.