

HOLIDAY DECORATING TIPS

holiday cents

Centsible savings during the holiday season

It's easy to get caught up in the holiday decorating frenzy – whether you're decorating for the annual visit of the in-laws, for the spirited competition with the neighbors or for the smiles you anticipate from your children and little loved ones. Regardless, you often get so caught up in the spirit of the season you don't realize how much energy those blinking strands of illumination can use.

To sensibly light up the holiday season and save some pocket change, TXU Energy offers the following tips to conserve energy, and therefore reduce the costs of holiday decorating.

DECORATE WITH LEDs – Get rid of the old traditional decorating bulbs, and start using Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). LEDs are durable, last up to 100,000 hours, and conserve more energy than their incandescent counterpart. One traditional bulb in a strand of holiday lights (incandescent C9) uses six watts. An entire strand of 50 LED lights uses four watts (0.004 kilowatts).

When "outlining" your house with lights, consider using the latest trend of hanging LED Icicle Lights or Roof and Window Valance Lights.

UNPLUG LIGHTS – Always unplug all holiday lights at the wall outlet before going to bed or leaving the house.

PRE-LIT DECORATIONS – To avoid the mess and hassles associated with real garland, consider using pre-lit LED wreaths and artificial garland on the mantel and along stair railings. This not only saves assembly time, it also provides considerable cost-savings year after year.

SPECIALTY LIGHTED DECORATIONS – Update and brighten ordinary holiday displays throughout the home with creative designs, such as the LED Holiday Tree, Teddy Bear or Angel.

MIRRORS AND TINSEL – Use mirrors or tinsel around indoor lights to heighten their effect.

TIMERS – Use timers to limit light and inflatable displays.

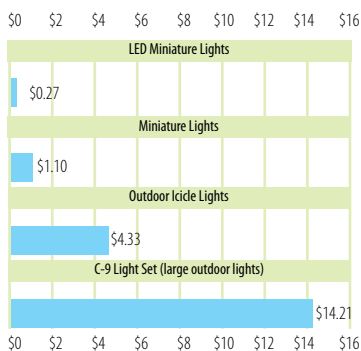
FLOODLIGHTS – Consider floodlights for outdoor lighting. Use compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) or LED floodlights for greater energy savings. They also come in festive holiday colors.

GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTER – For outdoor lighting, use a ground fault circuit interrupter for each circuit. If current "leaks" through frayed or damaged wires, the interrupter automatically shuts it off.

CONSIDER NON-ELECTRIC DECORATIONS – Display holiday decorations like wreaths, garlands, fresh flowers, topiaries, battery operated candles, ribbons, ornaments and ceramic displays. These festive decorations add holiday flair and do not consume any electricity.

Estimated Holiday Light Usage Costs

(5 strings of lights using residential rates)



● Estimate based on 5 hours usage per day for 30 days at a rate of 12.5 cents/kWh.

