



MESSAGE
FROM
PRESIDENT/
CEO

**RYAN
BARTLETT**

Time Away Can Be A Time to Save

THIS TIME OF YEAR, it seems like my family and I are away more than we're home. Between celebrating graduations, weddings and birthdays, weekends at home are rare. Throw in some quality time with kids while they're out of school for the summer, and our schedule is jam-packed.

If your calendar is like mine, one advantage of all that travel is that it's a good time to give your home's air conditioning system and electronics a break. Here are some tips for making the most of your time away from home.

Unplug some of your household appliances. Many devices use electricity while they're plugged in, even when turned off. Unplugging not only saves energy but also can prevent fires during your absence. Start with TVs, gaming consoles, computers, microwaves, coffee pots and other small kitchen appliances.

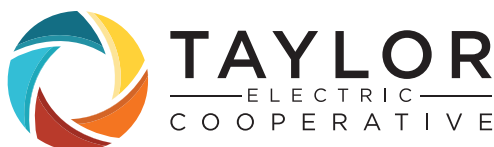
Make sure all ceiling fans are off—they cool people, not rooms.

A smart power strip can help turn off—and on—multiple appliances or electronics all at once. They can be purchased with various features, including remote controls, and make it easy to manage those vampire loads that draw power even when turned off.

Set the air conditioning to 80 degrees. Raising the thermostat 7–10 degrees above its normal setting for eight hours a day can save as much as 10% on your cooling bill. If you have a programmable or smart model, you can set it to bring the temperature back to a more comfortable level in time for your return.

Turn down the water heater. Much of the cost of running a water heater comes from just keeping the water at the selected temperature.

Consider using timers to turn lights on and off every night. Timers can save energy and also give an appearance that someone is home, deterring burglars. For the lights that will be on the longest—inside and outside—use LED bulbs. They use at least 75% less power than traditional bulbs and last longer.



TAYLOR
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Electrical Safety Vacation Checklist

WE LOOK FORWARD to the fun and relaxation of summer vacations all year long. But while we're away, fires can start when lightning strikes houses, sparking flames in electronics or small appliances, and burglaries tend to increase because folks aren't at home. To help protect your home while away, implement this safety checklist before you leave.

- » Turn off and unplug appliances, including toaster ovens, stoves and coffee makers.
- » Turn off and unplug electronics such as TVs, computers and game systems. This is especially important as these items are more susceptible to lightning and power surges.
- » Use a timer on indoor lights. Look for one that can be set to a random pattern rather than one that cycles the same way throughout the day.
- » Install motion-detecting lights outdoors.
- » Give a house key to a trusted neighbor and make sure they have your phone number.



A Closer Look at Home Electrical Safety

SAFETY FOR TAYLOR Electric Cooperative employees and members is our top priority year-round, but June—National Safety Month—is a good time to take an even closer look at the importance of safety.

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these tips to safeguard your home.

In the Kitchen

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure countertop appliances are located away from the sink. Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges.
- Maintain the area above the cooking range and its surface. The area should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Light the Way

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- Lamp cords should be in good condition—not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center or replace it.
- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional outlets installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Throughout the House

- Don't overload outlets. Power strips only add outlets—they don't increase the amount of power the outlet receives.
- Inspect power cords regularly and replace or repair them immediately if they're damaged.
- Replace any damaged outlets or switch plates. If you notice one is warm to the touch, turn off its breaker and have a licensed electrician check it out.

Be Prepared

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year—or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. Smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route; they're more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Thank you to our members for another
successful **Taylor Electric Cooperative**
Annual Meeting –
We look forward to serving you
for years to come!



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Safety Tips for Your Home Workshop

WHETHER YOU ARE A master craftsman or just getting started, it's important to keep safety at the forefront when building your at-home workshop. From lighting to flooring, here are some key tips to help get you started. Clear clutter: Keep extension and power tool cords safely tucked away; they're tripping hazards. By ensuring you're able to move freely, you'll avoid the danger of injuring yourself when distracted.

Check your tools: Before working with electric power tools, inspect wires for cracking or fraying, and if damage is discovered, replace them. The last thing you need is a shock when working with an electric saw. Also, never attempt to plug a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet, and never remove the third prong.

Light it up: Make sure you have heavy-duty lamps and bulbs installed in your work area to ensure proper lighting during your projects. It's dangerous to operate tools without good visibility. Heavy-duty LEDs are a great choice. Not only will you have excellent visibility, you'll also save energy.

Use proper protection: It's important to use safety gear, including goggles and gloves, to protect yourself from accidental injury. A metal fleck in the eye or a splinter in the hand can cause real damage.

Use proper supports: Work on sturdy benches so that your raw materials are properly supported. By ensuring that your project is stable, you'll be able to safely focus on the workmanship of each piece.

Air it out: When working with chemicals, make sure you have proper ventilation that keeps fresh air flowing through the workspace. Even small painting and varnishing projects require adequate airflow so you're not inhaling fumes.

Invest in durable flooring: Consider using an epoxy floor finish, with nonslip flecks embedded in its surface to protect you from slipping. In addition, by choosing a light color, the flooring's reflective quality will increase your visibility, making it easier to spot nails and debris.

Give Your Washer and Dryer a Longer Life

YOU CAN EXTEND the life of your washer and dryer—and your clothes too—by treating your appliances with care on laundry day. Here's how.

Clean the dryer's lint filter after every use. Occasionally vacuum the chute that houses the filter.

Unfasten the duct from the dryer at least once a year and vacuum it.

Cut down on drying time if your clothes consistently come out wrinkled. That means you're overdrying.

On nice days, skip the dryer completely by installing and using a clothesline.

Avoid overloading your washing machine with comforters, rugs and large blankets. Look in your owner's manual to learn how much weight your washer's tub can handle. Balance your load. Washers can fail when heavy loads bang around in an unbalanced machine.

Replace your water intake hoses every five years, even if they look OK. Older hoses are prone to bursting.



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