

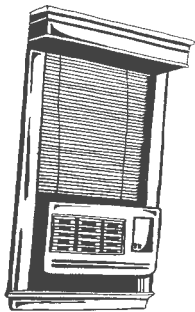
LANE-SCOTT CONNECTIONS

P.O. Box 758, 410 S. High St., Dighton, KS 67839
 Phone 620-397-5327

Is Your Air Conditioner Ready for Winter?

There's more than turning the switch to "off" when it comes to getting your air conditioner ready for cold weather.

"First, you want to protect your air conditioner from inadvertently being turned on during cold weather," said Richard B. Hayter, director of Engineering Extension Programs at Kansas State University.



This is especially true with a central air conditioner because the compressor is located outdoors within the condensing unit. If the unit is turned on when cold, liquid refrigerant could enter the compressor and damage it.

"To prevent this from happening, either turn off the circuit breaker to the air conditioner for the winter, or remove or turn off the electrical disconnect located outdoors on the electric service line to the condensing unit," Hayter said.

The heating element inside the compressor draws a small amount of electricity continuously. Disconnecting the outdoor unit will turn off this heater.

Similar precautions can be taken with window units left in place during the winter by disconnecting the unit at the electrical outlet, shutting off the circuit breaker or pulling the fuse to the outlet.

"Next, cover the exterior condensing unit to protect it from debris and prevent damage to the condenser fins," he said.

If your home is equipped with a heat pump, do not cover or disconnect the outdoor unit. Similarly, the exterior of a window unit should be covered to reduce heat loss through the unit.

"The cover should seal tightly around the opening to minimize the infiltration of cold air," Hayter said.

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 The Lane-Scott Electric Co-op, Inc.
 P.O. Box 758
 410 S. High St.
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In Case of Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call Dighton, 1-800-407-2217. Office hours 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. After hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

**After Hours & Weekends Call:
 1-800-407-2217**

24-Hour Electrician Emergency Service

If you are without electricity, or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day. To request after-hours electrician service, call the following number:

1-800-407-2217

LANE-SCOTT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MAKES PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILLS EASY!

Lane-Scott's new **AUTOPAY** option allows the amount of your monthly electric bill to be automatically deducted from your bank account. There's no check to write, no payment to mail, no more forgetting to pay - and, best of all, **AUTOPAY WILL COST YOU NOTHING!** In fact, you will save money and time - no check writing costs, no postage expense, and more time for you!

For more information or to request an **AUTOPAY** authorization form, please call the co-op at (620) 397-5327 or 1-800-407-2217.

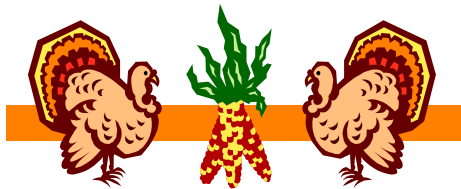
IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE!!!

When calling Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative after regular business hours, Cooperative Response Center, Inc. (CRC), a 24-hour customer contact center and central alarm monitoring station based out of Austin, Minnesota with a regional center in Dunlap, Tennessee, will answer your call. CRC, formed by 19 member electric cooperatives in the upper Midwest in 1992, serves 140+ members and customers nationwide, and is working as an extension of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative.

Using a combination of telephone and computer technology, CRC and Lane-Scott have established a seamless connection which enables a CRC Customer Service Representative (CSR) after hours to identify your account, answer your questions, pinpoint your outage, and if necessary, dispatch the appropriate line crew.

To place an inquiry or report an outage after regular business hours, call 620-397-5327 or 800-407-2217. You will hear, "Thank you for calling Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative." An available Customer Service Representative (CSR) will ask you basic information to verify and help locate your account to proceed with your after-hours needs. If you called to report an outage, after you receive confirmation your outage call is complete, the outage is then turned over to a dispatch team that will contact a line crew immediately.

During peak storms, you may be forwarded to an automated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) call processing system where you will hear a series of recordings directing you to press your phone keypad to complete your outage call.



Our Office Will Be Closed
November 28 & 29
Happy Thanksgiving!

It's Time to Seal Your Whole-House Fan

One thing the onset of winter means is that it's time to seal up your whole-house fan.

"Because the hinged shutters in most whole-house fans do not provide an effective air seal or appropriate R-value of insulation, it is necessary to take additional measures to reduce heat loss, especially due to air leakage," said Bruce Snead, Extension specialist in residential energy at Kansas State University.

There are three approaches to sealing up a whole-house fan for the heating season.

A weatherstripped insulating panel can be mounted to the ceiling trim around the shutters with screws, hooks or magnetic mounting tape. This can be constructed of a wood or vinyl frame with one to two inches of foam insulation and gasket-type weatherstripping attached around the edge.

"This is probably the simplest approach because it is installed inside the house, but it also will be visible from inside," Snead said.

A second approach is to build an insulated and weatherstripped box, which fits over the fan and seals to the wood frame around the fan housing.

"This box probably will require greater depth, remains in the attic when the fan is in use, must be installed in the attic and may be more difficult to achieve a tight air seal," Snead said.

This approach can be advantageous because the box is not visible from inside, and it can be left in the attic during the summer.

A third method is to drape fiberglass batts over the fan in the attic and use plastic or heat-shrink film to seal over the louvers from below. Reusable plastic kits for this purpose are available at discount and hardware stores.

Cellulose, Fiberglass Insulation Both Good for Attic

The best way to prevent heat loss in a home is to insulate the attic, where most heat is lost during the winter months, according to information from the Energy Extension Service at Kansas State University.

Both cellulose and fiberglass insulation can be used in an attic, but cellulose generally is easier to install and less expensive. Cellulose also has a slightly higher R-value per inch thickness and is more effective in reducing air leakage. Some studies have shown that cellulose insulation retains its insulating value at lower temperatures when compared to fiberglass.

Officials at K-State remind homeowners to seal all holes in the attic floor before beginning to insulate, regardless of which material is used.

HUMIDIFYING: The Good vs. the Bad

Operating a humidifier during the winter months has some obvious advantages, like keeping you comfortable at lower temperatures. But it may actually increase your energy costs, says Richard B. Hayter, director of Engineering Extension Programs at Kansas State University.

A portion of the energy used to heat your home is necessary to evaporate water from a humidifying unit. This energy does not contribute to warming the house, so your furnace has to work longer to satisfy the thermostat. The longer it runs, the more fuel you have to pay for at the end of the month, even though you may have been able to stay comfortable at a lower temperature.

“Elevated humidity can reduce the occurrence of sore throats, dry sinuses and other upper respiratory problems associated with dry air, and it tends to tighten a house against unwanted air leaks, too,” Hayter said.

At a room temperature of 68 degrees, it shouldn't be necessary to raise the humidity to more than 30 percent. A room is too humid if condensation forms and persists on windows and other cold surfaces throughout the day.

Ready for Winter? Heaters Need Annual Checkup

Space heating accounts for about two-thirds of all gas use in a typical U.S. home. Water heating is another big user.

That's why energy engineers at Kansas State University say that reducing the need for space or water heating is paramount to saving money.

Some of their suggested changes for homeowners are obvious.

“Adding insulation, reducing [outdoor air] infiltration, lowering home thermostat and water temperature settings, and reducing the use of hot water are effective in reducing the demand for heat,” said Gene Meyer, a mechanical engineer at KSU.

He added, however, that annual checkups of water and space heating equipment are important, to convert gas to heat more efficiently.

“You may want to upgrade equipment with more efficient space and water heaters, to help reduce gas use,” Meyer said.

Don't Cover Those Attic Vents

Several procedures should be taken around the house to ready things for winter. But covering your attic vents shouldn't be one of them, says Gene Meyer, Extension mechanical engineer at Kansas State University.

“Attic vents should be left open the entire year,” Meyer said. “Attic ventilation performs two vital functions: air flow and moisture removal.”

The ventilation allows air to flow through the attic, thus removing the hot air that accumulates in this space during the summer.

During the winter, moisture produced within a home tends to migrate to the outside. Part of this moisture passes through the ceiling into the attic area. If adequate ventilation is not provided during the winter, condensation and frost can occur in the attic space.

“Once this moisture has condensed in the attic space, it can ruin the insulation and cause structural damage,” Meyer said. “So it's important to leave this attic ventilation open during the entire year.”

It's a Fact . . .

Did you know that your electric cooperative is one of 1,000 such non-profit electric utilities in the United States? Furthermore...

- A few are public entities, such as public power districts, but most are local, private businesses--consumer-owned cooperatives--incorporated under the laws of the states in which they operate, and owned and controlled by the people they serve.

- Electric co-ops serve 30 million people in 46 states (12 million farms, homes, schools, churches, irrigation systems, business and other establishments in 2,600 of 3,128 U.S. counties).

- Electric co-ops serve 10.8 percent of the nation's population, accounting for 7.4 percent of kilowatt-hours sold and five percent of electricity generated by the electric utility industry.

Holidays and Cold Weather

It's that time of the year again . . . cold weather is upon us! It's wise to have your heating system checked for optimum performance. Check extension cords, overloaded outlets, and broken bulbs. Remember, it pays to be safe. We hope your holidays are filled with joy and happiness.

POWER BILLS DON'T IMMEDIATELY SHOW ARRIVAL OF COOL WEATHER

Fall has arrived, and temperatures are finally dropping. As the days and night cool, consumers use less or no air conditioning and naturally expect their electric bills to go down immediately.

Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way. What consumers often overlook is the delay between the period electricity is used and when the consumer gets his bill. In other words, the cool weather that reduced your energy demand today won't show up on a bill for 30 to 60 days.

This can cause problems, especially when someone enjoying a cool fall day gets a major power bill for electricity used when air conditioners were battling 95-degree weather.

October and November, as well as February and March are the period when power bills don't seem to match the climate. Let's say a bill received in early October is for power used during August when summer's heat is still very present. A November bill will reflect the usage in September. Consumers should always check the usage period listed on their bills. This will indicate when that energy was used.

Only one thing determines your ultimate electric bill and that is your demand for power.

NO ATTACHMENTS ON POLES!

All too often our crews see garage sale signs or other signs tacked on our electric poles. We have also found clotheslines, fences, wires, etc., attached to our poles.

This creates a very hazardous situation for our linemen who must climb these poles. If a gaff on the lineman's hooks hits a metal nail or tack, it could cause him to fall and possibly severely injure himself. Nails and tacks can also cause a hole in the lineman's rubber gloves. Even a tiny pin hole in a lineman's rubber gloves makes the gloves totally ineffective and could cause the lineman to become electrocuted.



Safety codes also dictate that we cannot let you attach your own wiring system to cooperative poles.

This does include electric fence wire.

You must realize that many times when our linemen are on outages, it is after dark and many be raining or snowing. It's hard to see what is on a pole and normally the truck spotlights are shining up at the top of the pole, not towards the bottom. When the linemen find the problem and get out to climb the pole, they can't see if there is a nail on the pole or not.

In view of these safety considerations, our staff will notify members of any unsafe attachments to our poles, and ask that they be removed immediately. ***If you know of any unsafe attachments, please remove them immediately, instead of waiting to be contacted.***

We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Get Ready for Heating Season

In addition to having a professional service your furnace before winter, you can do a few things yourself to make sure you get the most for your heating dollar.

- Clean and dust warm-air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators.
- Heat-resistant radiator reflectors placed between walls and radiators maximize the heat that stays in the room.
- Caulk and seal openings for plumbing, ducting, or electrical wiring that penetrates through exterior walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.
- Install rubber gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls.
- Look for dirty spots in your insulation. These spots often indicate the location of holes that let air leak into and out of your house. Seal the holes by stapling sheets of plastic over the holes and caulking the edges of the plastic.

Humidity Is Welcome in Winter

You've learned from the way you feel on a hot, humid summer day that moisture in the air makes you feel even hotter. Well, use that lesson this winter to keep yourself comfortable during the cold months.

If the air in your home is dry-and most heating systems contribute to the dryness-moisture in your skin evaporates into the air, and that makes you feel cooler. That's great on a July day, but not what you want in January! So to keep comfortably warm during the cold season, add moisture to your home's air. A humidifier, which costs about \$30, can help a lot. Even a pan of water placed in the room where you spend most of your time will help increase your comfort. If you adequately humidify the air in your home, you'll probably find you can set your thermostat back a few degrees-and every little bit helps when you're saving energy and money.
