



Owner's Manual

Seasonal Lighting: Keep the Twinkle, Cut the Cost

Northern Wasco County PUD encourages customers to celebrate the holiday spirit while protecting your budget and your loved ones. Here are some tips to help keep the sparkle in the season:

Tip #1: Consider operating holiday lights only after dark. Six hours a day or less keeps energy use and costs under control.

Tip #2: Set it and forget it. Indoor and outdoor light timers are now available with multiple settings so they can be turned off and on several times in a 24-hour period.

Tip #3: Lower watt lights such as miniature lights use less energy than large bulbs. Icicle lights are an exception. Because they have more lights per foot than regular light strands, they are less energy efficient.

Tip #4: If you plan to purchase new lights this year, consider Light Emitting Diode (LED) strands. Some LED strands require 90 percent less energy than incandescent mini light strings.

LED lights for indoor use can last up to 100,000 hours. Outdoor LED strands provide about 50,000 hours of sparkle. Unlike traditional bulbs which have a fragile filament that can break easily, LED bulbs use a microchip to emit light and are nearly indestructible.

Tip #5: When purchasing holiday lights, always look for a safety listing from Underwriter's Laboratories (UL-symbol).

Tip #6: Want to conserve energy but not willing to part with your annual Santa and his reindeer display? Think about other ways to conserve on your power bill.

Substitute a compact fluorescent (CFL) bulb for an incandescent bulb in your home and you can afford to light a string of 100 mini lights and still save energy and money. Over the next year, that CFL will save five times the energy of the light string.

Tip #7: Fiber optic artificial trees are a relatively energy-efficient alternative to traditional tree lighting. Light from a single incandescent bulb is transmitted through hundreds of tiny fibers and emitted

along the branches of the tree. Some models use a rotating color wheel that changes the color emitted from the fibers.

Tip #8: While conserving energy, be sure to also keep your family safe. Natural trees should be well watered to prevent bulbs from igniting dry branches. Never use electric decorations on artificial trees with metallic needles, leaves or branches. Instead, place colored spotlights above or beside the tree.

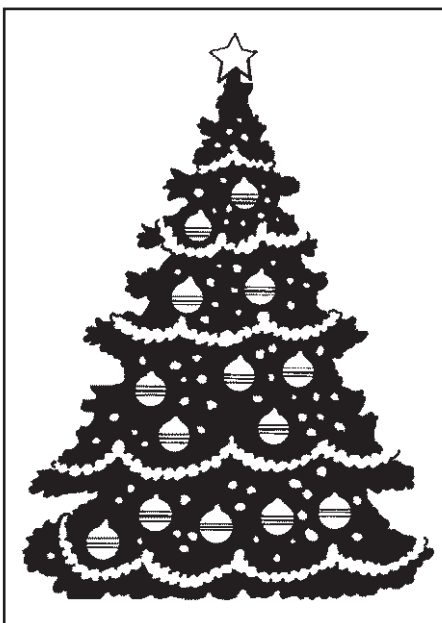
Tip #9: Extension cords and light sets should be kept away from tree stands. When plugging in several light strings, use *fuse-protected* power strips and avoid running extension cords under carpets.

Tip #10: Protect your children and pets. Be sure there is a bulb in each socket. If a bulb burns out, leave it in place until you have replacement.

Tip #11: Check your fuse or circuit breaker panel to see how much load your home can handle. Don't overload your electric circuits.

Tip #12: For outdoor lights, cover outdoor plugs and connector joints with a water-resistant layer of plastic wrap and electrical tape. Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) on each circuit to automatically shut off the current when a fault is detected.

Tip #13: Finally, don't light up the night sky from now until spring. Take down your lights after the holidays.



Visit our website at: www.nwasco.com

Need a Powerful Gift?

For that hard-to-buy-for person on your holiday list, consider a PUD gift certificate. They make great housewarming gifts for a new homeowner or first-time renter and are an easy way to say "thank you".

Gift certificates for electricity are available in any amount and can be redeemed and applied to the bill of any NWCPUD customer.

Give the gift of power. Gift certificates can be purchased at our office at 2345 River Road.

Include Neighbor to Neighbor in Year-end Giving

When planning your year-end giving this holiday season, please consider a donation to NWCPUD's Neighbor to Neighbor Program. The money collected helps people in the PUD's district, usually families who are having trouble paying their power bills because of health or employment problems.

You can make a single contribution in any amount by enclosing it with your monthly bill or spread out your payments over the year. All donations are tax deductible.

2008 Pocket Calendars are Here

Plan your new year with a NWCPUD pocket calendar. Slip one into your purse, backpack or coat pocket and you are good to go. Best of all – they're free!

Get a jump on the new year. Pick up your's today.

Broken Branches Threaten Power Lines

Heavy snow and harsh winter winds can play havoc with trees, shrubs and power lines. NWCPUD asks our customers to periodically check trees near services lines for broken branches that might lead to future problems. This is especially important after severe storms.

If you notice a tree on your property that could endanger a power line should it fall, please contact our office at 296-2226 so we can send someone to check out the situation. If you see a primary or service line running through some trees and limbs are rubbing on the lines, let us know. Sometimes we can put guards on the wires to prevent a problem or trim the limbs away from the lines.

If a tree warrants trimming, we will require a tree trimming permit authorization from the property owner. With trees such as pines and firs, it is difficult to maintain a good shape when pruning, but our tree trimmers try to accommodate the owner's wishes wherever possible.

Our tree trimmers usually have a backlog of requests and try to attend to them when they are in a certain area. With over 45 square miles of service area, we don't have the manpower to check out each and every service wire. Priority is given first to the primary lines that carry power to the most people, then to feeders that distribute to neighborhoods and finally to each individual service.

If you see a downed power line, trees in the line or other obvious signs of trouble, your description of them will help crews pinpoint and repair problems. Please call us immediately.

Community Calendar

DECEMBER

7

Festival of Trees, tree auction and reception presented by Columbia River Bank and sponsored by Mid-Columbia Health Foundation and MCMC, 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium. Proceeds to benefit Celilo House and LifeWorks Comfort Care. For information, call 296-7275.

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Festival of Trees Community Day, Enjoy a pancake breakfast, tour the trees and visit with Santa beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Civic Auditorium.

8-9

"Here We Come A' Caroling," Cascade Singers' Christmas concert, Saturday, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, at 3 p.m., at St. Peter's Landmark, West Third and Lincoln streets in The Dalles. General admission \$10.00, students and seniors \$5.00, children 10 and under, free.

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Northern Wasco County PUD Board Meeting, 6 p.m., 2345 River Road, The Dalles.

Non-profit community organizations are encouraged to promote events and activities that support, nurture and enhance the quality of life in communities served by Northern Wasco County PUD. To list an item in the community calendar, Please call 298-3302.