

# Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

NOVEMBER 2011

## Seal cracks to save energy, money

**F**inding and sealing air leaks can save you energy and money. Here are tips from Wake Electric that can help keep your home warmer in winter while lowering your utility bills.

Caulking cracks and openings can save you \$212 a year. You can find cracks by waiting for a windy day and then carefully holding a lit incense stick or a smoke pen next to your windows, doors, electrical outlets, and other spots where outside air may infiltrate. If the smoke stream moves horizontally, you've found a leak that needs to be sealed.

Experts recommend using waterproof, flexible, and long-lasting silicone caulk to seal cracks and gaps less than one-quarter-inch wide. Remove any old caulk and clean the surface before applying new caulk.

Fresh caulk takes several hours, or longer, to dry, so it's best to do the job on a dry day when humidity is relatively low and the temperature is above 45 degrees F.



In addition to caulk, you can use low-expansion spray foam to seal leaks.

For other tips on how to save energy and money, visit [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com).

### Wake Electric lends a hand during Hurricane Irene

Wake Electric experienced 6,532 power outages after Hurricane Irene hit North Carolina in late August. Once all of its members' power was restored, Wake Electric sent some of its line workers to Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation to assist with its restoration efforts. Wake Electric also sent a two-man

service crew to assist Tideland Electric Membership Corporation with connects and disconnects after the hurricane. We are proud to be part of the cooperative family, a network of electric cooperatives who strive to help one another during adverse times.

 **Wake Electric  
Membership Corporation**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Call to report outages: 919.863.6499 or 800.743.3155  
Regular office hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Telephone hours: M-F, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., 863.6300 or 800.474.6300  
Underground locating service: Call 811

## Make the change of season safely

As the leaves change to their beautiful autumn hues and the weather gets colder, keep in mind these electrical safety tips:

- ★ Make sure space heaters are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Also check that power cords are not frayed, cracked or cut.
- ★ Do not use an extension cord to power a space heater. Plug directly into the electrical outlet. Make sure the circuit can handle the power demands of the space heater and any other appliances plugged into it.
- ★ Keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials such as curtains, draperies, loose paper and upholstery. Keep space heaters out of reach from small children and pets. Never use heaters as drying racks.
- ★ Space heaters should have an automatic shut-off in the event they tip over.
- ★ If the heater is running on fuels such as gas, kerosene or wood, follow manufacturer's instructions carefully. Make sure carbon monoxide detectors are installed. Keep chimneys and flues free from corrosion or blockages.
- ★ Check to see if electric blankets are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab like UL. Do not tuck your electric blanket under the mattress and don't put anything on top of the blanket. Do not allow pets to sleep on electric blankets.
- ★ Check cold weather tools, like leaf and snow blowers, to ensure power cords are in good repair. Extension cords need to be approved for outdoor use.
- ★ Use only weatherproof outdoor electrical appliances for outdoor activities.



### Holiday Closings

Wake Electric's offices will be closed on Thursday, November 24, and Friday, November 25, in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday. For emergencies, please contact us at (800) 474-6300 or (919) 863-6300.

### Bought an Electric Car? Thinking About Buying One? Let Us Know About It!

Please contact Wake Electric if you have purchased or plan to purchase an electric vehicle that will be charged at a home or business that

is served by the co-op. We want to continue to accommodate the extra load electric cars place on our system and ensure that no safety issues exist.

You can contact us at (919) 863-6312, (919) 863-6316 or via email at [communications@wemc.com](mailto:communications@wemc.com). We appreciate your help with this matter.



Source: Christine Grammes, Electrical Safety Foundation International

# Holiday cooking safety

**P**reparing a complex holiday meal can be chaotic, especially when you're surrounded by distractions, as many of us are during the holidays. This year, take a few minutes to learn some kitchen safety tips to ensure a safe, joyful and scrumptious holiday season:



- ★ To prevent kitchen fires, never leave any pot or pan on the stove unattended.
- ★ Keep anything that can catch fire (potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels or curtains) away from the stovetop.
- ★ Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen, but not near the stove. Consider keeping a fire extinguisher by the kitchen door. That way it is visible and accessible.
- ★ Read and familiarize yourself with your fire extinguisher's directions for use before there's a fire.
- ★ Inspect your fire extinguisher at least once a month. Make sure the pressure is at the recommended level (the needle should be in the green zone), the nozzle and other parts are not damaged, the pin is intact and there are no visible signs of damage. Some manufacturers recommend shaking your dry chemical extinguishers once a month to prevent the powder from settling/packing.
- ★ Always keep an oven mitt and lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are wearing the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool.
- ★ If there is a fire in your microwave oven, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Do not proceed to open the door until the fire is out. If possible, unplug the appliance if you can reach the outlet safely.
- ★ Check your appliances on a regular basis to make sure they are unplugged.
- ★ Never overload outlets when cooking.
- ★ When children are around, be sure to use the back burners on your stove top as much as possible to prevent burns.

## Wake ElectriConnection

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### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP Use Lights with Motion Sensors

Use motion sensors on your lights to save on your electric bill. These sensors turn on lights automatically when someone enters a room and turns them off after a person leaves.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## Newsletter also offered online

Each month, Wake Electric offers the electronic version of this newsletter, *ElectriConnection*, online. If you ever misplace or throw away your *Carolina Country* magazine and want to refer back to something you saw in the Wake Electric section, just go to our website at [www.wemc.com](http://www.wemc.com). That's two ways to access your monthly co-op news!

As you already know, each edition of *ElectriConnection* is filled with tips on how to save on energy bills, information about our grant and scholarship programs, and updates on the latest in energy news and politics. Why? Because Wake Electric is focused on news you can use.

*ElectriConnection* is just one of the many privileges of being a member. Be sure to click around our website for information and all sorts of useful tools on energy savings.

[www.wemc.com](http://www.wemc.com)



# I THOUGHT I WAS TIGHT WITH MY MONEY. NOW I'M AIRTIGHT.

All it took was a tube of caulk and half an afternoon. Now, I'm saving \$212 a year by sealing a few cracks around the house. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

 Wake Electric  
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