Clinton County Connection

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Should I use a space heater or turn up the heat?

Drafty room? Before reaching for your space heater, consider whether it's better to plug it in or simply turn up the thermostat.

Space heaters are designed to warm small, targeted spaces — not your entire home. If you find yourself relying on one often, it may be time to address your home's energy efficiency.

Fix efficiency first, then supplement with a space heater

Improving your home's efficiency helps it retain heat, reduces drafts and reduces your energy use. Many solutions are affordable and DIY-friendly, such as:

- Sealing air leaks. Use caulk and weatherstripping around windows and exterior doors to prevent drafts.
- Adding insulation where it matters. Attic insulation has the biggest return on investment, and loose-fill insulation is an affordable option.
- Checking your heating system. Schedule regular service for your furnace or heat pump. If it's outdated or struggling, it could be time for an upgrade. Check with your utility for potential rebates and incentives.
- Using programmable thermostats. These can help reduce energy waste by heating only when and where needed.

Once your home is sealed and insulated, a space heater can be used to increase comfort and warm specific rooms, like a home office or bedroom, without turning up the heat for the whole house. A space heater is like a ceiling fan; it can improve comfort in a small area, but it's not a whole-house solution.

Use space heaters efficiently

- Heat only the room you're currently in.
- Close doors to keep heat contained.
- Choose the right size — too small and it won't warm you; too big and it wastes energy. Check manufacturer sizing guides.
- Use a heater with a thermostat and timer to avoid overheating the room or wasting electricity

Stay safe while staying warm

- Place the heater on a solid, flat, nonflammable surface — never on carpets or rugs.
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use extension cords or power strips.
- Keep children, pets and anything flammable, such as curtains or bedding, at least 3 feet away from the heater.
- Choose a heater with built-in safety features including:
  - An overheat sensor;
  - A tip-over shutoff switch; and
  - A UL, ETL or CSA International certification label.
- Never leave a space heater unattended, especially around children or pets.
- Turn off the heater when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Unplug it when not in use to prevent electrical hazards.

Holiday closings

In observance of the following holidays, the Cooperative office will be closed:

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY
Wednesday, Dec. 24 & Thursday, Dec. 25

NEW YEAR'S EVE & NEW YEAR'S DAY
Wednesday, Dec. 31 & Thursday, Jan. 1

Although the office will be closed, view your account information and pay your bill 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by visiting our website at www.cceci.com or by calling 800-526-7282.

feeling chilled?

HEAT YOUR SPACE SAFELY

1. Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away
2. Place on a flat, level surface
3. Make sure the cord is not frayed or cracked
4. Plug it directly into an outlet
5. Follow all instructions and use models endorsed by a reputable testing lab
6. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which can overheat
7. Do not use around small children or pets
8. Do not use one with a damaged plug or prongs

SafeElectricity.org®

Bright Lights, Safe Nights

Outdoor holiday lighting safety

- Use outdoor-rated lights with UL safety labels.
- Plug into GFCI outlets for shock protection.
- Stay at least 10 feet from power lines when hanging lights.
- Don't hang lights with tacks, nails or screws — use clips instead.
- Keep cords away from water and snow.
- Inspect for damage like broken sockets or frayed cords.
- Don't overload extension cords or outlets.
- Turn off lights before bed or when away; a timer makes it easy.

Safe Electricity.org®

YOUTH TOUR ILLINOIS

SPONSORED BY THE ELECTRIC AND TELEPHONE COOPERATIVES OF ILLINOIS

2026 Youth Day and Youth Tour

Clinton County Electric is sponsoring up to 12 area sophomores, juniors or seniors to attend Youth Day in Springfield, sponsored by Clinton County Electric Cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. Two attending Youth Day will be selected to go to Washington, D.C., for an all-expense-paid trip. See our January 2026 issue for more details.

HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

Energy Explorers

The holidays are a fun, festive time of year! But this is also a time when we typically use more electricity at home because the weather is colder and we're home for the holiday season.

Read the efficiency tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.

Holiday Efficiency Tips:

Decorate your tree with energy-saving **LED lights.**

Save energy by using a **timer** to turn off holiday lights when you're sleeping.

If you have a **fireplace** in your home, remind an adult to close the **damper** when a fire is not burning.

Open blinds and curtains during the day to let **sunlight** in to warm your home.

Lower the **thermostat** when you invite friends or family over.

W	F	M	M	V	X	W	Q	L	B	P	V	E	J	E
J	I	Z	O	P	T	W	E	N	A	W	A	C	N	E
R	E	M	I	T	M	D	E	R	U	K	V	A	H	B
I	J	X	Z	L	L	R	D	Y	L	A	P	L	J	F
K	L	F	A	I	N	Z	I	J	K	P	Q	P	P	H
T	R	P	G	C	T	B	O	X	A	S	R	E	G	T
J	T	H	E	R	M	O	S	T	A	T	Q	R	V	F
T	T	F	E	S	Y	A	F	G	C	T	X	I	G	T
S	R	B	R	A	Y	O	U	A	B	E	H	F	H	Y
J	Z	E	H	V	L	T	U	H	W	L	O	G	V	Y
E	F	O	P	L	Q	H	Y	K	K	L	I	B	B	I
A	R	A	W	M	V	W	D	Y	X	L	L	Q	Q	I
A	W	G	S	Z	A	W	R	O	N	J	J	J	P	Z
R	P	U	Q	U	K	D	G	U	P	B	K	D	K	Q
B	Z	S	C	J	Q	B	S	G	V	F	X	U	J	F