

december 2006

NEW HAMPSHIRE

ELECTRIC CO-OP NEWSLETTER

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Holiday Safety Tips

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause over \$930 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, you can greatly reduce the chances of having a holiday fire casualty.

- **Selecting a Tree for the Holiday**

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

- **Caring for Your Tree**

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

- **Maintain Your Holiday Lights**

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

- **Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets**

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch.

- **Shelter Plugs**

Avoid possible short-circuiting from rain, sleet or snow by locating plugs and connector joints in sheltered areas.

FreezeAlarm™
Peace of Mind All Winter

Never worry about power outages, frozen pipes and water damage with the FreezeAlarm, the innovative product that monitors your home's electricity and temperature.

Choose from three models available from the Co-op – all three will automatically call you in the event of a power outage, or if the temperature in your property drops below a pre-set point. The Deluxe version allows you to adjust the temperature in your home remotely using your telephone, while the Deluxe with Water Alarm will notify you in the event of a water leak. This is the ideal product for second or seasonal homeowners! Call the Co-op today for complete details at 1-800-698-2007, or read more online at www.nhec.coop.

Jazz Up Your Bathroom

New Convectair Model Features Towel Warmer

Just in time for winter, the Co-op now offers the comfort of a new Convectair electric space heater.

The Convectair Jazz warms towels and bathrooms in record time. Perfect for those cold mornings when you hate to leave the shower, the Jazz mounts easily on the wall and plugs into a standard 120-volt outlet. Like all Convectair heaters, the Jazz uses a convection heating process that circulates heat quickly, evenly and silently. A fan option provides even quicker heating while it dries or warms your bath towels on the racks beneath. This is the ideal product for people who want quick comfort without the cost of heating an entire zone.

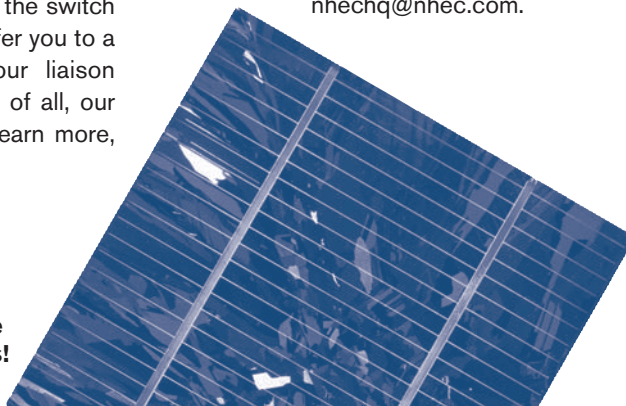
The Co-op sells two Convectair models – the Jazz and the Apero. Both are available to Co-op members at 20 percent below the manufacturer's suggested retail price. To order, call Co-op Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007. To learn more about the Convectair models and the benefits of convection heat, log on to the Products section of our website at www.nhec.coop.

Watts Happening

Go Solar!

Want to save up to 65 percent on your annual water heating costs? Your Co-op has a solar hot water program that can help. Working in partnership with solar installers across New England, the Co-op will assess the feasibility of your site, what you can expect for energy savings and update you on the latest tax credits available from the federal government. Should you decide to proceed with the switch to solar powered hot water, we'll refer you to a qualified installer and act as your liaison throughout the entire project. Best of all, our services are free to members. To learn more, call 1-800-698-2007.

Solar hot water heaters can save up to 65% on water heating costs!



Board of Directors Meeting

The Co-op Board of Directors meets the second to last Tuesday of each month at the Co-op's facility at 287 Highland Street, Plymouth. The Board will meet next on Tuesday, December 19, 2006. The January meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2007. For more information, contact Sharon Yeaton at 603-536-8801, or nhechq@nhec.com.

Why You Will Love Your Marathon

Lifetime Warranty

It will be the last water heater you will have to purchase for your home.

High Efficiency

You will save money on your energy bill as the water stays hot. Thick Envirofoam™ insulation allows only 5°F heat loss in 24 hours!

Lowest Total Cost of Ownership

Marathon efficiency saves energy, and your pocketbook. Its renowned durability eliminates buying a new water heater every 10 years (national average). This also eliminates the cost of re-installing a water heater every 10 years or so. The Marathon offers significantly lower total cost and fewer problems than 'instantaneous' or 'tankless' water heaters.

No Smelly Water

It does not need an anode rod, so it eliminates rotten-egg smell caused by anode rods found in conventional steel heaters interacting with sulfates found in many water systems.

High-Tech Construction

- The polybutene inner tank cannot rust or corrode which makes it great for 'brutal well water' conditions.
- The filament-wound fiberglass inner tank creates the toughest and strongest tank in the residential water heater industry. All tanks have easy-on/easy-off water connections.
- Commercial grade high temperature dip tubes eliminate dip tube failures.

- 'Self-cleaning' action caused by true bowl shaped tank bottom coupled with a brass drain valve at the very bottom for more complete draining.
- A 'car bumper tough' polyethylene exterior resists dents and bumps.

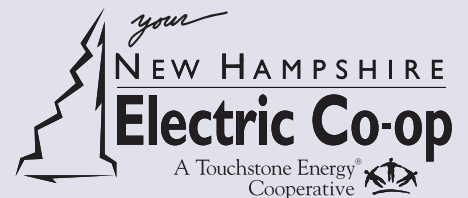
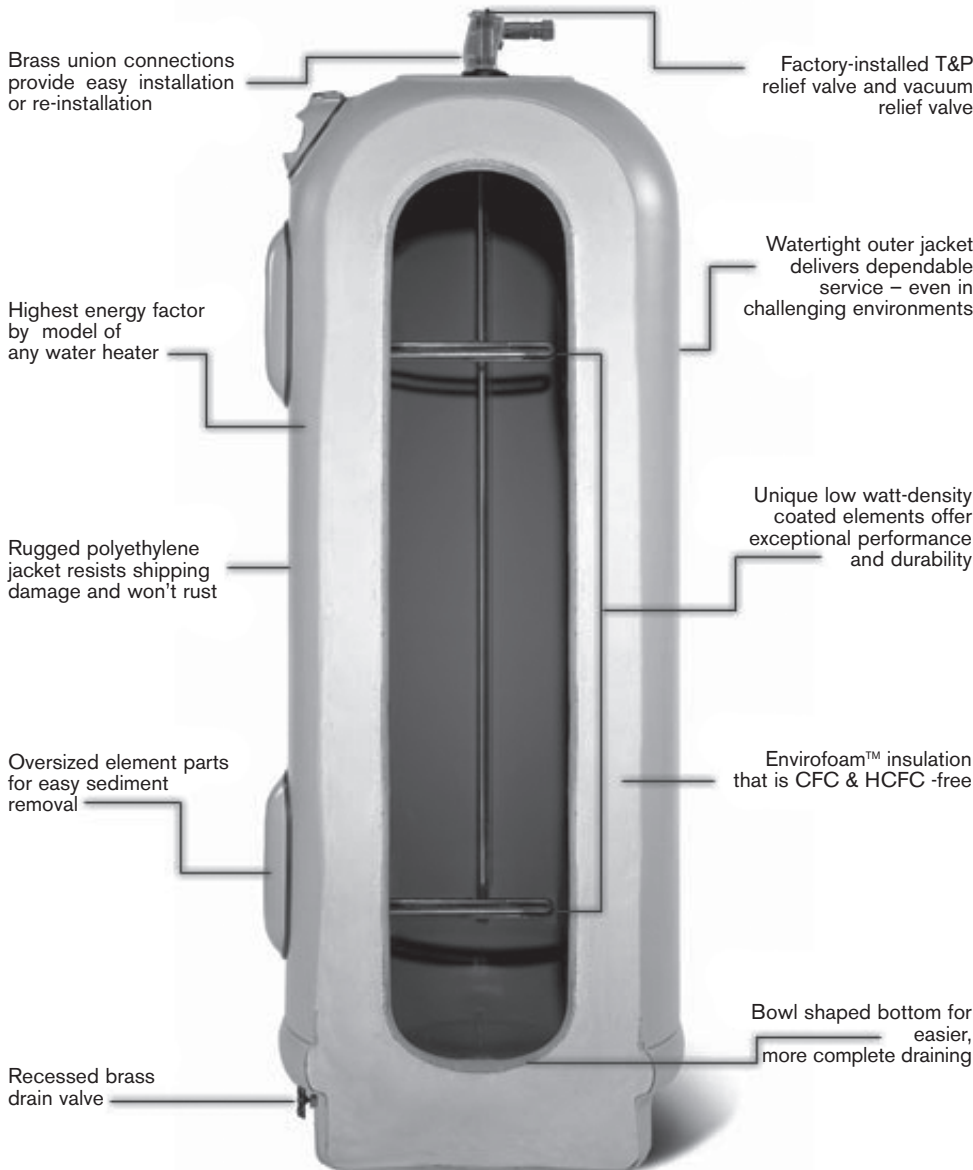
No Extra Parts to Purchase

The Marathon comes with a factory-installed T&P (temperature & pressure relief) safety valve, 4' of pipe insulation to save energy, and union fittings on all connections.

Buy Your Marathon Before 2007 Price Increase

If you've been considering the purchase of a Marathon water heater, now is the time to buy. Water Heater Innovations, Inc., the manufacturer of Marathon water heaters, has informed us that a price increase will take effect in January 2007. According to the company, the increase is being driven by a combination of price increases in copper and brass components, as well as heating elements, thermostats and plastic resins.

NHEC members will still be getting a good deal – we sell to members at prices that are below the manufacturer's suggested retail. For pricing information, please contact Member Solutions at 1-800-698-2007.



For member service please call
1-800-698-2007 or visit us
online at www.nhec.coop

To report an outage please call
1-800-343-6432 or e-mail
nheccc@nhec.com

New Hampshire Electric Cooperative
579 Tenney Mountain Highway
Plymouth, NH 03264

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RESOURCECORNER

Undoit.org

Today the average American uses enough energy to release about 50,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, the major contributor to global warming, per year. This website is devoted to bringing that number down. Check out their list of 20 simple steps that will help the environment and save you money.

Energystar.gov

Use the ENERGY STAR® Home Sealing Guide to improve your home's "envelope" or "shell" – its outer walls, ceiling, windows, and floors. This is often the most cost-effective way to improve your home's energy efficiency and comfort.

Greenerchoices.org

This site, underwritten by Consumer Reports®, offers an anatomy of your home energy bill and how to save. By breaking down the various components of your annual energy bill, it's easier to target the measures you can take to realize the greatest energy and cost savings. Most savings tips are simple and require little upfront investment.

NHEC.coop

The Co-op's website has a list of participating retailers where you can get instant savings coupons on the purchase of energy-efficient compact fluorescent lighting. Located in the Energy Efficiency section of our site, the list of participating retailers is updated regularly with the names of over 100 stores across New Hampshire that offer discounts of up to \$15 on ENERGY STAR® rated bulbs and fixtures.

Keep It Simple for Energy Savings

Three Easy Steps You Can Take Today

Energy savings doesn't have to be an expensive undertaking. Before you invest in high-dollar measures like new windows, heating systems or appliances, make sure you've done the easy stuff first. Below are the three easiest and cost-effective steps you can take today to save money on your energy use...

Install Programmable Thermostats

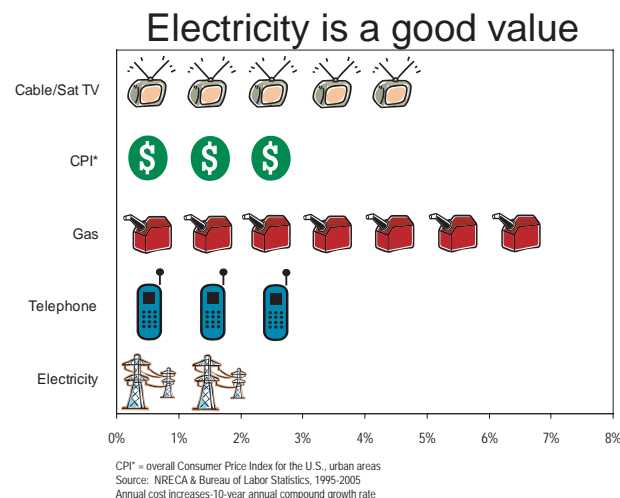
Programmable thermostats are relatively inexpensive to install and can help homeowners save big on their heating bills. They come in a variety of models (many less than \$75) ranging from one-day to seven-day programming. Electronic setback models are more accurate and keep temperatures within a smaller variance than standard bi-metal thermostats making your home more comfortable. They automatically adjust to raise the temperature in your home before you get up in the morning or return in the evening. Savings from an eight hour, 10 degree setback every day can save up to 15 percent of your annual heating bill.

Seal Your Home

An important step you can take to reduce home energy costs year-round is to seal air leaks and add insulation – paying special attention to your attic and basement, where the biggest gaps and cracks are often found. This will keep warm air inside where it belongs and help your heating equipment perform more efficiently.

Switch to CFLs

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) provide bright, warm light but use at least 2/3 less energy than standard lighting, generate 70 percent less heat, and last up to 10 times longer. To save the most energy and money, replace your five highest used light bulbs with energy-efficient models. Co-op members who purchase energy-efficient interior and exterior light bulbs and fixtures can receive rebate coupons redeemable at participating retailers or select lighting products from a mail order or online catalog. To find a participating retailer near you, visit the NHEC website at www.nhec.coop. If every American home changed out just five high-use incandescent bulbs with CFLs, each family would save about \$60 every year in energy costs, and together we'd save about \$6.5 billion each year in energy costs and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from more than eight million cars.



Compact fluorescent light (CFL)

About Our Cover

Cover Image: *Entombed in Ice*, a photograph of Crawford Notch, NH by Harry Lichtman of Newmarket, NH. Check out the NHEC Co-op Cover Collection at: www.cafepress.com/nhec_art.