

CURRENTS

JNEC's September 2026 Newsletter

Save Energy at Home with Efficient Lighting

Changing a light bulb may seem small, but the right bulb can make a noticeable difference on your electric bill. Lighting accounts for 15% of an average home's electricity use, so switching to energy-efficient bulbs can be one of the fastest and easiest ways to save energy.

Today's most common lighting options are LED bulbs, compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) bulbs, and halogen incandescent bulbs. According to Energy.gov, halogen incandescent bulbs meet federal minimum energy efficiency standards but are not the most efficient choice.

For the biggest energy savings, LEDs and CFLs offer the greatest return. ENERGY STAR-certified LED bulbs use up to 90% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last 15 to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs. With the average U.S. household using about 70 light bulbs, switching to energy-efficient lighting can add up to significant long-term savings.

LED bulbs typically cost more upfront than CFL bulbs, but since they last longer and use less energy, the cost can be offset over time.

Here's a breakdown of how the most common lighting options compare:



LED bulbs: LED bulbs are the most energy-efficient lighting option available. They are designed to turn more electricity into light and waste less energy as heat. Because they direct light where it's needed, they're ideal for recessed downlights, task lighting and accent lighting. LEDs can last up to 34 years — three to five times longer than CFLs. They also produce very little heat, which helps reduce energy waste and the risk of overheating.

CFL bulbs: CFLs are compact versions of the fluorescent tube lights commonly found in older kitchens, garages, and workplaces. They use about 70 to 75% less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer, with an average lifespan of 14 years. While they're much more efficient than incandescent bulbs, about 80% of the energy they use is still lost as heat.

Halogen incandescent bulbs: These are an improved version of the traditional incandescent bulbs. A small capsule of halogen gas allows the filament to operate more efficiently, using about 20 to 30% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs. They are fully dimmable and come in a wide variety of shapes and colors. However, they have the shortest lifespan of the three options, lasting 4.2 years on average.

Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

IF YOU ARE UNDER A HURRICANE WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY.

When a hurricane is 36 hours from arriving

- Turn on your TV or radio in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include food and water sufficient for at least three days, medications, a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies. <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

When a hurricane is 18-36 hours from arriving

- Bookmark your city or county website for quick access to storm updates and emergency instructions.
- Bring loose, lightweight objects inside that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g., patio furniture, garbage cans); anchor objects that would be unsafe to bring inside (e.g., propane tanks); and trim or remove trees close enough to fall on the building.

When a hurricane is 6-18 hours from arriving

- Turn on your TV/radio, or check your city/county website every 30 minutes in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Charge your cell phone now so you will have a full battery in case you lose power.

When a hurricane is 6 hours from arriving

- If you're not in an area that is recommended for evacuation, plan to stay at home or where you are and let friends and family know where you are.
- Close storm shutters, and stay away from windows. Flying glass from broken windows could injure you.
- Turn your refrigerator or freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. If you lose power, food will last longer. Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator to be able to check the food temperature when the power is restored.

Survive DURING

- If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Do not drive around barricades.
- If sheltering during high winds, go to a FEMA safe room, ICC 500 storm shelter, or a small, interior, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor that is not subject to flooding.
- If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising flood water.

Be Safe AFTER

- Listen to authorities for information and special instructions.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off electricity at the main breaker or fuse box to prevent electric shock.
- Avoid wading in flood water, which can contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.



Guía para la Preparación de Huracanes

SI ESTÁ BAJO UN AVISO DE HURACÁN, ENCUENTRE REFUGIO SEGURO DE INMEDIATO.

Cuando un huracán está a 36 horas de llegar

- Encienda su televisor o radio para obtener las últimas actualizaciones meteorológicas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- Reponga su equipo de preparación para emergencias. Incluya alimentos y agua suficientes para al menos tres días, medicamentos, una linterna, pilas, dinero en efectivo y suministros de primeros auxilios. <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

Cuando un huracán está a 18-36 horas de llegar

- Marque el sitio web de su ciudad o condado para el acceso rápido de las actualizaciones de tormentas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- Traiga adentro objetos sueltos y ligeros que puedan convertirse en proyectiles con vientos fuertes (por ejemplo, muebles de patio, botes de basura); sujete objetos que no son seguros para llevar adentro (por ejemplo, tanques de propano); y recorte o retire los árboles que están lo suficientemente cerca como para caer en el edificio.

Cuando un huracán está a 6-18 horas de llegar

- Encienda su televisor / radio, o visite el sitio web de su ciudad / condado cada 30 minutos para obtener las últimas actualizaciones meteorológicas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- Cargue su teléfono celular ahora para que tenga una batería llena en caso de que pierda energía.

Cuando un huracán está a 6 horas de llegar

- Si no se encuentra en un área recomendada para la evacuación, planifique quedarse en su casa o donde se encuentra y avise a sus amigos y familiares dónde se encuentra.
- Cierre las contraventanas y manténgase alejado de las ventanas. Los vidrios que vuelan de las ventanas rotas podrían dañarlo.
- Gire su refrigerador o congelador a la posición más fría y ábralos solo cuando sea necesario. Si pierde la energía, la comida durará más tiempo. Mantenga un termómetro en el refrigerador para poder verificar la temperatura de los alimentos cuando se restaure la energía.

Sobrevivir DURANTE

- Si se le indica que evacue, hágalo inmediatamente. No maneje alrededor de las barricadas.
- Si se refugia durante vientos fuertes, vaya a una habitación segura de FEMA, refugio contra tormentas ICC 500 o una habitación o pasillo pequeño e interior sin ventanas en el piso más bajo que no esté sujeto a inundaciones.
- Si queda atrapado en un edificio por inundación, vaya al nivel más alto del edificio. No suba a un ático cerrado. Usted puede quedar atrapado por las crecientes inundaciones.

Sea Seguro DESPUÉS

- Escuche a las autoridades para obtener información e instrucciones especiales.
- No toque el equipo eléctrico si está mojado o si está parado en el agua. Si es seguro hacerlo, apague la electricidad en el interruptor principal o en la caja de fusibles para evitar una descarga eléctrica.
- Evite vadearse en el agua de la inundación, que puede contener desechos peligrosos. Las líneas eléctricas subterráneas o caídas también pueden cargar el agua eléctricamente.

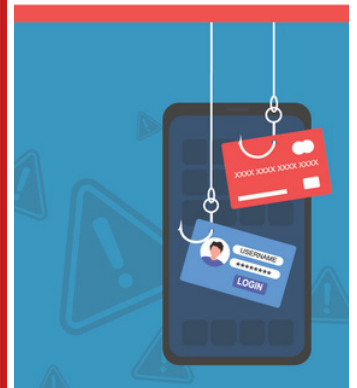


JNEC
JASPER-NEWTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Your smart thermostat, security camera, video doorbell and other connected devices make life more convenient—but they can also be targets for cybercriminals if they're not properly secured. Change default usernames and passwords, use strong, unique passwords for each device and enable multi-factor authentication when available. Keep your devices up to date by installing software and firmware updates, which often include important security fixes. Secure your home Wi-Fi network with a strong password and modern encryption. A few simple steps can help keep your personal information and smart devices safe from scammers.

Source: CISA



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives