

FIVE WAYS TO STAY COZY THIS WINTER

Baby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat. Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," ***an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth*** like a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features, like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.
2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to ***keep your feet warm***. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.
3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and ***harness natural warmth from sunlight***. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in—you'll be able to feel the difference.
4. Another way to make your home cozier is to ***use a humidifier***. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.
5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, ***area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet*** on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate!



CO-OP PRINCIPLE #5

EDUCATION, TRAINING & INFORMATION

CEO's Message



CEO, Jeff Simpson

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YOUTH TOUR TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C. CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

// In 1965, electric cooperatives across Oklahoma and Texas joined forces to send a busload of youths to Washington, D.C. There the teens met with President Lyndon B. Johnson, explored the capital, and forged memories and friendships to last a lifetime. For more than five decades, electric co-ops carried on the legacy of that first Government-in-Action Youth Tour each summer.

Until the coronavirus pandemic hit. I'm saddened to announce that, for the second year in a row, Youth Tour has been cancelled. SWRE will continue to hold the Youth Tour Contest just as we have for the last 55+ years, and will be awarding scholarships to the top students from Oklahoma and Texas in lieu of the trip to D.C.

Along with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Oklahoma and Texas statewide associations decided to cancel the states' participation in the 2021 Youth Tour.

This decision was made out of an abundance of safety and caution for all those involved. After carefully considering the resources required to properly ensure the health and well-being of the hundreds of delegates and chaperones, the NRECA determined that the risk was not worth the reward.

The cancellation comes as a big blow to all of us here at Southwest Rural Electric Association. Youth Tour represents one of our most important investments in the future of the communities we serve. The students who participate in Youth Tour travel to Washington to learn about the important role of electric cooperatives, meet their congressional representatives, and gain a deeper perspective on the history and mechanisms of our democracy. Attendees often return with a renewed commitment to their hometowns, and many have gone on to become teachers, doctors, lawyers, politicians and even co-op employees in those communities.

Of course, the biggest loss of the cancellation is felt by the young people who won't get the chance to take the trip. Many have anticipated Youth Tour for years, hearing friends and family who have participated call it the trip of a lifetime.

Rest assured, as soon as conditions are deemed safe, SWRE will jump on the chance to send students once again on this unforgettable trip. In the meantime, thank you for understanding this difficult decision.

//
Jeff Simpson
CEO

 **WE'RE PROUD TO
POWER YOU.**

REASONS TO LOVE YOUR CO-OP

Happy Valentine's Day, members of Southwest Rural Electric Association! As we celebrate love this month, I want to tell you about some of the reasons to love your electric cooperative.

- **We're member owned.** That means you, the consumer, are an owner of this business. And as a member-owner, you have a say in how the organization operates, can run for the board of directors and are eligible to receive capital credits when the co-op retires them.
- **We're local.** You don't have to call a faraway customer service representative to receive help. When you call us, you call our office right here in Tipton, OK. You might even speak with someone you know because we employ people who live right here.
- **We have a strong foundation.** We have been providing affordable, reliable electric service since our founding in 1937. We formed with a mission of serving our rural area with a commodity that would ensure we could keep up with our urban neighbors. How we deliver service might look a little different today, but we still aim to improve the quality of our members' lives.
- **We provide energy-saving tips.** We routinely help you save money by offering tips and information on how to reduce your electricity consumption. You can find articles about energy conservation in Oklahoma Living, Texas Co-op Power, as well as our website and social media.
- **We support our community.** Our employees volunteer for meaningful causes around town.
- **We're innovative.** We consistently implement new technologies and tools to ensure that we provide electric service in the most efficient and cost-effective way.

Thanks for being part of the electric cooperative family. We hope that as a member-owner you feel the love from SWRE.

MORE DIRTY DISHES? NO NEED TO USE EXTRA ENERGY

When the whole family is spending more time at home, an endless supply of dirty dishes seems to show up in the sink and in the dishwasher every day. If you adopt a few energy- and water-efficient habits for dishwashing, however, the extra glasses and plates don't have to send your electric bill through the roof.

Adjust the water temperature to below 120 degrees on your water heater and dishwasher. Your dishes and laundry will get just as clean at the lower temperature and will use less energy.

Use the energy-saving "eco" setting on your dishwasher to conserve up to half of the water and water heating of a regular cycle.

Use the air-dry cycle in the dishwasher or turn the dishwasher off before it starts drying the dishes to save up to half of the energy of a full cycle.

Wait until the dishwasher is full before you run it.

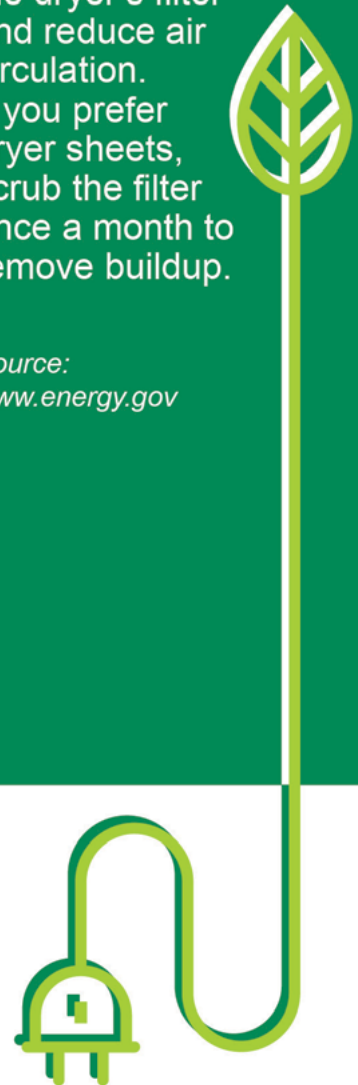
Don't pre-rinse. It's a waste of water and energy and totally unnecessary!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source:
www.energy.gov





VALENTINE'S CAKE POPS

Serving Size: 60-70 Cake Pops

DIRECTIONS:

1. Bake cake according to package directions and cool completely.
2. Slice cake into small pieces and place into a mixing bowl.
3. Break apart large pieces with a spoon. Add about 3/4 tub of frosting and mix well with spoon or your hands. If mixture seems dry and won't shape into a ball, add more frosting.
4. Place wax paper onto a baking sheet or cutting board and clear a space in your refrigerator.
5. Shape cake into 1" balls using a tablespoon portion scoop and make sure you roll the balls smooth with the palms of your hand.
6. Place onto prepared pan and refrigerate for 1 hour.
7. Heat chocolate by breaking it apart and placing it into a bowl. Heat in the microwave for 2 minutes on 50% power, stirring every 30 seconds until melted.
8. Dip cake bites into chocolate. Place onto another baking sheet lined with wax paper.
9. Sprinkle with valentine sprinkles and refrigerate to let the chocolate firm up.
10. Serve or freeze for later!

INGREDIENTS:

1 box cake mix of your choice
(strawberry recommended)
Ingredients to make cake (usually
water, egg and oil)
1 tub frosting of your
choice (vanilla buttercream
recommended)
12 oz. white baking chocolate
12 oz. dark baking chocolate
Valentine sprinkles

Source: <https://www.eatingonadime.com/valentines-day-cake-balls-recipe/>

Trading Post

For Sale: Red Dodge Ram 3/4 Ton, 5.9 Liter, 24 Valve, 6 Cycle Cummins, AFE Intake Elbow, Exhaust Gas, Pod Transmission Temperature Gauge, Turbo Boost, 6 Foot Bed, White Camper Shell. 124,720 miles. Asking \$13,000. Call (580) 318-4813 or (580) 471-0923 if interested.

For Sale: 1953 Ford Golden Jubilee. Good running condition. Call (580) 471-2007.

For Sale: 3 registered Red Angus bulls. Call W5 Farms at (940) 839-5467 for pictures and details.

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