



# MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON BRIGHT AND ENERGY EFFICIENT!

## YOU WANT TO SPEND YOUR MONEY WISELY AT CHRISTMAS, ON FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FUN—NOT ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS.

The December holidays could seem very dull and dark without festive lights, and no one is suggesting that you should go without the twinkle you love on your home, in your yard or on your tree this year.

But some lights are definitely more energy-efficient than others: they not only use less energy for the same festive effect, they also cost you less on your holiday electricity bills. Add a timer or two, and you'll save even more.

## TRADITIONAL INCANDESCENTS: BEAUTIFUL, BUT WASTEFUL

Many of us grew up with traditional incandescent holiday light strings (the ones with the larger bulbs) and we like them: they're warm, they're bright and they come in a range of wonderful colours.

But they are also the most wasteful choice on the market today, consuming five to seven watts of electricity per hour per bulb. With, say, 50 bulbs per string, that equals 250 watts per hour per string—a lot of energy, and most of it is actually going to waste. Believe it or not, less than 10 per cent of the power used by an incandescent bulb goes into creating light, the rest is heat.

A much better choice is LED (light emitting diode) holiday lights.

## OTHER WAYS TO SAVE

Switching to LEDs will give you the biggest energy savings over the holidays, but there are other ways to save as well.

### FOR EXAMPLE

- If you have lots of traditional incandescent light strings left and just don't want (or can't afford) to replace them, you can use fewer lights for fewer hours over a shorter season to reduce your energy use.
- Instead of realizing "I forgot to turn off the lights!," you can attach timers to both your indoor and outdoor lights to turn them on and off automatically at pre-set times.
- Consider switching to a pre-lit LED artificial tree or a pre-lit fibre-optic tree powered by LEDs. Ready to plug in and enjoy, these trees use very little energy, last for many years and are very safe because they give off virtually no heat.

## SAFETY NOTES

- Do not connect LED strings to conventional strings. Your LED bulbs will wear out more quickly and it could create a safety hazard.
- Check the package to make sure you pick the right strings: some LED strings are rated for indoor use only. Do not use them outside.
- Plug your LED outdoor lights into extension cords, plugs and sockets approved by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) for outdoor use or wet locations.
- Be sure to turn off all your holiday lights before going to bed, and never leave lights on when you are away from home, unless they are connected to a timer or photocell.
- Never install your lights with the power on. Plug your lights in to test them, then unplug them to install.
- Use eave clips or insulated staples, rather than nails and tacks, to hold your light strings in place.
- If other lights in your home dim when you turn on your holiday lights, or the plug is very hot when you unplug your lights, you have an overloaded electrical circuit. Move some lights to another circuit.
- Do not leave your outdoor lights up year-round. The cords and bulbs will deteriorate quickly and could become dangerous.

## LEDS: ENERGY-EFFICIENT AND SAFE, ALL IN ONE

LED holiday lights cost just about the same as incandescent light strings and now come in virtually all the same colours and shapes, including round balls, candles and icicles.

The big difference is that they use up to 90 per cent less energy than incandescent lights, which means your holiday lighting charges could be as much as 90 per cent less than if you used incandescent lights only.

For example, if you operated six strands of traditional incandescent holiday lights for six hours a day through the month of December, and the price for electricity was 8.27 cents per kilowatt hour, it would cost you over \$23 dollars to run your holiday lights. Six LED strands, on the other hand, would cost you just 28 cents.

But the good news does not end there. Because LED light strings last up to 10 times longer than incandescents, it will be a long, long time before you need to replace them. With no filaments or glass bulbs to break, they are also more durable, plus they produce almost no heat, reducing the risk of fire.

**LOOKING FOR  
MORE IDEAS ABOUT  
HOW TO KEEP THE  
TWINKLE AROUND  
YOUR HOUSE ALL  
YEAR ROUND WHILE  
STILL SAVING  
ENERGY?**

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