P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124
620-672-5538
www.ninnescah.com

NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Watts Ahead

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 620-672-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

Home Lighting 101

Lighting is something most of us don't think much about — until it's wrong. Maybe the living room feels too dim for reading, or the kitchen lights cast an odd yellow glow. We often grab whatever bulb or fixture looks good without considering how it will actually perform in the space. But with a little planning, you can make your home brighter, cozier and more energy efficient.

WATTS VS. LUMENS

When you're shopping for lightbulbs, it's easy to focus on watts, but watts only measure how much energy a bulb uses. When it comes to brightness, what really matters is the lumen count. Lumens measure the actual light output. For example, an 800-lumen bulb emits approximately the same amount of light as a traditional 60-watt incandescent bulb. (You've likely replaced all incandescent bulbs with long-lasting, energy-efficient LEDs, but if not — it's time to make the switch!)

A helpful rule of thumb: Higher lumens mean brighter light, while lower watts mean less energy consumed. Remember to check wattage ratings for fixtures and only install bulbs that meet the fixture's wattage safety requirements.

COLOR TEMPERATURE AND CONSISTENCY

Lightbulbs also vary in color temperature, which ranges from warm yellow to cool white or even bluish tones. This detail often gets overlooked until you replace one bulb and notice the new light doesn't quite match the others. If mismatched tones drive you crazy, consider buying and installing bulbs of the same brand and wattage in a room at the same time. That way, the look stays consistent, and you won't be stuck hunting for a perfect match later.

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Happy Thanksgiving

from our co-op family to yours

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, to celebrate the holiday.

Home Lighting 101

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DIMMERS AND SWITCHES

Installing dimmers instead of standard on/off switches can be a game changer. Dimmers give you more control over brightness, help save energy and create a more comfortable atmosphere. Not all bulbs are dimmable, so double-check labels before buying.

While you're thinking about switches, consider whether you have enough of them — and in the right places. A light you can only turn off from one end of a hallway quickly becomes annoying. For new installations or upgrades, it's best to hire a licensed electrician to ensure everything is wired safely and efficiently.

FIXTURES: FORM MEETS FUNCTION

Bulbs are only part of the equation — fixtures matter too. Each type serves a purpose. Ambient lighting, like sconces or glass-covered ceiling fixtures, provides general illumination. Task lighting, like pendants, desk lamps or track lighting, focuses light where you need it most.

When choosing a fixture, think beyond looks. Ask yourself: Does this light provide the right amount of brightness for the space? A beautiful chandelier might look perfect over the dining table but it leaves the rest of the room too dim. Alternatively, an oversized fixture could flood the room with more light than you need, wasting both energy and money.

SMART LIGHTING: ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEETS CONVENIENCE

Smart lighting adds another layer of control for illuminating your home. But the real magic is convenience. With smart bulbs, you can adjust brightness, set schedules or even change colors — all from your phone or a voice assistant like Alexa or Google Assistant. Want the lights to dim automatically for movie night? Or to turn on before you get home? Smart bulbs make it easy.

Smart lighting also lets you personalize your space. You can go classic with warm white tones or experiment with colors to set the mood — anything from a soft glow for winding down to vibrant hues for a party. Remember, smart bulbs still rely on power from your wall switch, which needs to stay in the "on" position for remote controls to work. If you prefer using a physical switch, consider pairing smart bulbs with a smart light switch. Many of today's smart switches also feature motion detectors, adding an extra level of efficiency and convenience.

Good lighting doesn't just make your home look better — it makes it feel better too. With a little planning, you can create spaces that are welcoming, functional and energy efficient. Whether you stick to traditional bulbs and fixtures or explore the flexibility of smart lighting, thoughtful choices today will brighten your home for years to come.

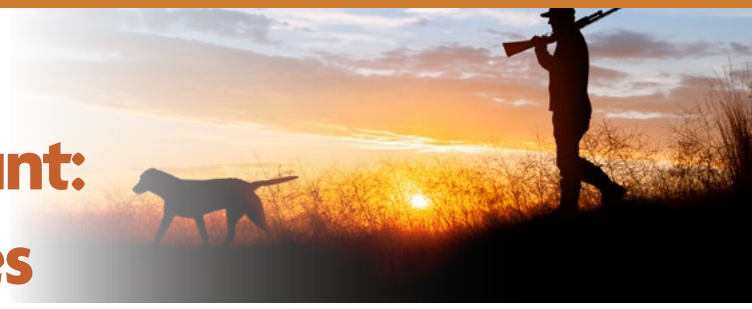
HOME LIGHTING GUIDE

Here are home lighting recommendations — other bulb, fixture and room options may also be available.

SOURCES: HOME DEPOT, ALCON LIGHTING

	LIVING ROOM	KITCHEN	DINING ROOM	BEDROOM	BATHROOM	PORCH/HOME ENTRY
RECOMMENDED LUMENS	15-30 per sq. ft. 150 sq. ft room 2,250-4,500 LUMENS	30-40 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. room 3,000-4,000 LUMENS	10-20 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. room 1,000-2,000 LUMENS	10-20 per sq. ft. 120 sq. ft. room 1,200-2,400 LUMENS	50-80 per sq. ft. 60 sq. ft. room 3,000-4,000 LUMENS	100-200 per sq. ft. 100 sq. ft. entry 10,000-20,800 LUMENS
FIXTURE TYPES	Ceiling fixtures, can lighting, lamps/ accent lighting	Recessed ceiling lights or flush mounts	Pendant or chandelier fixture	Ceiling fixtures or recessed lighting	Over-vanity fixtures and/or recessed lighting	Wall lanterns, ceiling mount and/or floodlights
TIPS	Use smart bulbs to adjust color temp and control remotely.	Smart switches control zones (dining vs. prep), while undercabinet motion lights provide late-night illumination.	Smart, dimmable bulbs allow various levels of brightness for ambiance.	Motion sensors are great options for nighttime use.	Cool LED bulbs provide brighter light for shaving, applying makeup, etc.	Motion-activated flood lights and/or smart outdoor bulbs are energy efficient and boost home security.

Preparing for the Big Hunt: Look out for Power Lines



As hunting season approaches, excitement builds for time outdoors. But before you head into the woods, make sure electrical safety is part of your preparation checklist.

Power lines and utility equipment are often out of sight — and out of mind — especially in wooded or rural areas. Ignoring them can lead to serious injuries or even death.

BEFORE YOU CLIMB THAT TREE STAND, LOOK UP AND OUT

Never install a tree stand near a power line or on a utility pole. Electricity can arc — jump through the air — up to 10 feet from high-voltage lines. This means you don't even have to touch a wire to be at risk of electrocution.

Never shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous scenario: Those who get within 50 feet of a downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.

KEEP THESE TIPS IN MIND TO STAY SAFE AND AVOID COSTLY OR DANGEROUS INCIDENTS:

- **SCOUT THE AREA.** Before hunting, take time to scout your area during daylight. Look for power lines, poles and electrical equipment. Note their locations to avoid them later.
- **POWER SAFELY.** If you're using a portable electrical generator on your hunting trip, don't use it inside a cabin or RV, or in a confined area. Use it outside where there is plenty of ventilation.
- **AVOID AIMING TOWARD POWER LINES OR EQUIPMENT.** Never fire near or toward poles, lines, substations or transformers. A stray bullet could knock down a line, interrupt power or create a deadly hazard.
- **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE.** Always stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines, poles and other electrical infrastructure when setting up or taking down tree stands.
- **NEVER CLIMB A UTILITY POLE.** Even if it looks like the perfect vantage point, don't do it. Poles carry high-voltage lines and climbing them can be deadly.
- **DON'T USE UTILITY POLES FOR SUPPORT.** Tree stands or blinds should never be attached to or supported by power poles or electrical equipment.

QUICK TIPS

- Never install stands or blinds on utility poles or near electrical equipment.
- Stay at least 10 feet from overhead power lines when climbing or placing a tree stand.
- Stay a minimum of 50 feet from a downed power line and call 911 to report it.
- Don't aim or shoot near power lines, poles or substations.
- Always assume power lines are live and dangerous, even if they appear inactive.

KNOW THE DANGER OF DOWNED LINES

If you come across a downed power line or damaged electrical equipment, stay at least 50 feet away, even if it doesn't appear to be live. Power lines can still carry electricity when on the ground, posing a risk of shock or electrocution. Call 911 or your utility right away to help prevent a dangerous situation.

Whether you're a seasoned hunter or heading out for the first time, staying aware of your surroundings could save your life.

SAFETY TIP

Prepare for the Hunt

- Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet from overhead lines and electrical infrastructure.
- Never climb a utility pole.
- Don't use utility poles to support tree stands or blinds.
- Avoid aiming toward power lines and equipment.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

WINTER RATES NOW IN EFFECT

We would like to remind you that Ninnescah's winter rates will go into effect with your November bill. The winter rates will remain in effect through your June bill. We are listing below the rates for electric service. **** INCLUDES ENERGY COST ADJUSTMENT — VARIES MONTHLY***

RESIDENTIAL MINIMUM BILLINGS*	**SINGLE PHASE**	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$32.50
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.147280 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.25 per kW
	THREE PHASE	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$42.00
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.147280 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.25 per kW
GENERAL SERVICE MINIMUM BILLINGS*	**SINGLE PHASE**	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$35.00
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.132070 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.35 per kW
	THREE PHASE	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$45.00
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.132070 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.35 per kW
SMALL COMMERCIAL MINIMUM BILLINGS*	**SINGLE PHASE**	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$37.50
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.139820 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.50 per kW
	THREE PHASE	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$47.50
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.139820 per kWh
	Demand Charge	$0.50 per kW
IRRIGATION MINIMUM BILLINGS*	**SINGLE PHASE**	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$32.50
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.144820 per kWh
	Energy Cost Adjustment	Varies Monthly
	THREE PHASE	**COST**
	Customer Charge	$42.50
	Winter Energy Charge	$0.144820 per kWh
IRRIGATION – LOAD CONTROL MINIMUM BILLINGS*		**COST**
Customer Charge		$30.00
HP Charge (Billed in 5 equal installments in April-Aug.)		$38.75/HP
Winter Energy Charge		$0.089900 per kWh
IRRIGATION – NO LOAD CONTROL MINIMUM BILLINGS*		**COST**
Customer Charge		$30.00
HP Charge (Billed in 5 equal installments in April-Aug.)		$42.50/HP
Winter Energy Charge		$0.132570 per kWh

Cold Weather Rule Begins

Payment arrangements must be made with Ninnescah to use the CWR

The Cold Weather Rule (CWR) allows for special payment and disconnection procedures for residential customers with past due bills. The provision for the CWR is to ensure human health and safety are not endangered during the cold weather months. The following guidelines have been established to protect not only you, the member, but your member-owned co-op.

The co-op will not disconnect a residential service between Nov. 1 and March 31 when the National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature to drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within the following 48-hour period unless:

- It is at the member's request;
- The service is abandoned;
- A dangerous condition exists on the member's premises;
- The member violates any rule of the cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the member or other persons, or the physical integrity of the cooperative delivery system; and/or
- The member causes or permits unauthorized interference with or diversion or the use of (mechanical bypass), electric service situated or delivered on or about the member's premises.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE CWR THE MEMBER MUST DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Inform the co-op of their inability to pay their account in full;
- Give sufficient information to allow the co-op to make a mutually agreeable payment arrangement;
- NOT default on a payment agreement. Once an agreement has been made and those terms are defaulted on, the agreement becomes null and void and the member's service will be subject to immediate disconnection; and
- Apply for any federal, state or local funds for which the member may qualify.

THE COOPERATIVE WILL:

- Send one written notice mailed first class at least five days prior to termination of service — this notice is your non-payment notice of your regular electric bill which shows any balance not paid on your account when the current bill calculation was run;
- The day prior to disconnection the co-op will make at least one attempt to contact the member of record. If the member is unable to be contacted, a disconnect notice will be left on the door by a co-op employee; and
- Inform the member of any known organization where funds may be available to assist with payment of electric bill.