



## Seasonal safety tips for Wake Electric members

Fall has arrived and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) has issued a safety checklist to remind everyone to keep electrical safety in mind during the change of seasons:

- Safely store warm weather tools like lawn mowers and trimmers. Check cold weather tools, such as leaf and snow blowers, along with their power cords, for unusual wear and tear. Repair or replace worn tools or parts right away.
- Unplug and safely store battery chargers that won't be in use again until spring.
- Use only weatherproof electrical devices for outside activities. Protect outdoor electrical devices from moisture. Make sure electrical equipment that

has been wet is inspected and reconditioned by a certified repair dealer.

- Keep dry leaves swept away from outdoor lighting, outlets and power cords.
- Make sure electric blankets are in good repair, certified by an independent testing lab such as UL, CSA or ETL. Power cords should not be frayed, cracked or cut.

Do not tuck your electric blanket into mattresses or under children, and do not put anything on top of the blanket while in use, such as comforters or bedspreads. Never allow pets to sleep on the electric blanket.

## Tune up your furnace for fall

You can save energy this fall and winter by having your furnace tuned up. Electric, gas and propane furnaces can go approximately three to five years between service calls and longer, if you change the filters regularly. Oil furnaces need to be serviced once

a year, because they get dirty and need annual adjustment.

As many know, changing filters regularly is one of the key maintenance tasks to keep any type of furnace running efficiently. Make sure that you know where your furnace's filter is located and what size it is. Inspect it periodically, and replace it when it is dirty. How frequently you need to change the filter depends on the amount of

dirt in the house and around the furnace and also how much time the furnace runs.

Duct air leakage is one of the largest energy-wasters in your heating system. Heating contractors can check your ducts for air leakage, and seal the biggest leaks. Contractors start by sealing the larger joints near the furnace, and then work out towards the branch ducts as access allows. Believe it or not, duct tape is not a good choice for sealing ducts because its adhesive usually fails after a short time. Duct mastic, available in cans or buckets, is an effective and permanent material for sealing duct air leaks.



Honeywell International

Source: Saturn Resource Management ([www.srmi.biz](http://www.srmi.biz))