

The holiday season brings beautiful decorations and imaginative use of holiday lights. This year, save energy and celebrate the holidays safely by following the lighting tips inside.



## SDG&E® Programs and Services

SDG&E has programs and services for residents and businesses to help save energy this holiday season. Rebates, incentives and online energy management tools are just some of the ways SDG&E is committed to providing exceptional customer service. For more information about saving energy this winter and year-round, visit [www.sdge.com](http://www.sdge.com).



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# Holiday Lighting

Safety and energy-efficiency tips



W I N T E R   S A F E T Y



## Being Safe

- Before using, inspect all seasonal lights for frayed cords, loose connections and broken sockets.
- Replace damaged electrical cords. Do not attempt to repair them.
- If you buy new lights, purchase only lights with the certification mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Canadian Standard Association (CSA).
- Keep your tree well-watered and your light cords dry.
- Do not let tree light bulbs touch needles and branches.
- Never use indoor lights outside.
- Attach outdoor lights with hooks. Do not put staples, nails or tacks through cords.
- Do not plug all your seasonal lights into one socket or circuit.
- Plug all outdoor lighting into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets only. These outlets have small test and reset buttons.
- Tape all outside extension cord connections to seal out moisture.
- Turn off lights when you leave the house or go to bed.



## Saving Energy

For those who enjoy having holiday lights on and around their homes, we have great news! A new use for an old lighting technology can provide significant energy savings and increased safety this holiday season.

LED (light-emitting diode) lights have been around for several decades and are an integral part of our daily lives. LEDs display the time on digital clocks, change the channel on remote controls, and carry instant replays and in-game entertainment at the ballpark, among other things. More recently, LEDs have been used in lighting traffic signals, and are now being used to light the home.

Holiday lights featuring LEDs can save consumers 90% or more in holiday lighting costs when

compared to traditional incandescent holiday lights. Traditional holiday lighting consumes a lot of electricity, most of which is converted into heat – making them very hot to touch and a potential fire hazard.

LED lights, on the other hand, generate little to no heat and are cool to the touch – good news for homes with small children. As for durability, LEDs are more durable than traditional holiday lights and last much longer (manufacturers are claiming over 100,000 hours of use for LED holiday lights). For price-conscious consumers, LED holiday lights can pay for themselves almost immediately depending on their use.

LED holiday lights are now available at major retailers and home improvement stores.

## Energy Cost Comparison

|   |   |
|---|---|
|      |  |
| <b>LED vs Incandescent Holiday Lights</b>   |   |
| Cost for one string of 35 lights on for 6 hours a day at 15 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) |   |
| LED: \$0.04 per month   | Incandescent: \$4.73 per month  |