



Verify Before You Buy

If you're trying to do your part for the environment by choosing "green" products that use less energy and create less pollution, chances are good that you're a bit confused.

Too often, a manufacturer will claim that its appliances, systems, household remodeling materials, cleaning products or even foods are "green"—and then a report comes out to dispute the claim.

It helps to check with a third-party certifying agency for proof that the "green" claims are true. Some good examples: UL—the same agency that tests electrical devices for safety—also validates environmental claims. The federal Energy Star label on an appliance means it meets high standards for energy efficiency. On food labeling, look for the USDA Organic label for verification that food is grown or raised organically.

Typically, a "green" product has some of these attributes: It contains recycled material or is recyclable itself; is made with local materials; is grown without hormones or antibiotics; is not an endangered species; saves energy; or is free of toxins that can waft into your indoor air.

Beware of words like "natural," "biodegradable," "organic" or "green" if you don't see a symbol on the package from a third-party verification agency.

Likewise, don't believe grandiose claims that seem too good to be true; they usually are. If the product label doesn't explain and prove the claims, don't buy it.

Don't be fooled by colorful, bright green or flowered packaging that implies the product is made with natural products. Read about the contents to learn what's in it.

NEW:

FramersElectric.coop has a new & refreshing co-op experience.



Farmers introduces our newly designed website—leaner, cleaner, and easier to navigate using your computer, smartphone, or tablet! Whether you're checking your account, paying a bill online, or learning more about your co-op, you'll find lots to love about our new design.

Online interaction is more a part of our everyday lives than ever before, and with more co-op members connecting with us using computers, smartphones, and other mobile devices, we saw the opportunity to make it all work together – better. With our new website design and mobile option (July 2015), we look forward to serving you faster, more conveniently, and more efficiently.

SAVE \$50 Tune up your AC.
Look for rebate offers at FarmersElectric.coop.

Win a FREE month of electricity.

Sign up for Budget Billing from Farmers EC to be entered in our free energy drawing.



Budget Billing allows you to keep billing consistent when the weather isn't. And if you sign up during 2015, we could even make one of the payments for you. Each month through December 2015, Farmers EC will draw the name of a member who has signed up and give them a FREE month of electricity. While this payment option is set up to eliminate surprises, we hope you might receive one unexpected one – a free month.

Every member who signs up is eligible through the December 2015 drawing.

Average is calculated using the last 12-month account usage history.

SIGN UP FOR BUDGET BILLING: 800 541 2662





Teach Your Children Electrical Safety

Message from General Manager Mark Stubbs

Electricity is a dynamic power source. We live our lives surrounded by it, but sometimes we forget just how dangerous electricity can be. Many home electrical fires, injuries and electrocutions can be prevented when we understand and practice electrical safety. This is especially true for our youngest co-op members.

Throughout the year, Farmers Electric Cooperative offers many opportunities to help teach youngsters about electricity. But as your children's first and most important teacher, perhaps it's time for you to have a talk with your sons and daughters to reinforce those lessons.

Start at an early age, teaching them about the physical dangers associated with electrical components and how to handle electrical plugs, outlets, switches and other devices. Keep in mind that talking to your children about electrical safety should also include fun activities and facts about the basics—what electricity is, the need to respect its power and how to use it efficiently as they study, work and play.

As we all know, kids will be kids. Getting them to show interest in some of these lessons won't be easy. Just remember that what your children learn from you today can be a lifesaver later when they are tempted to climb up a utility pole, encounter potential hazards like downed power lines in their path, or play hide-and-seek behind those big metal electrical boxes in the neighborhood.

Gather your youngsters around the kitchen table or on the front porch—some of the best teachable moments about electrical safety can happen in and around your home. Look around. There are plenty of opportunities to demonstrate safety that are as close as the electrical outlet on your living room wall. For example, show young children how plugs work, and let them know that even if they are curious about the slits of an electrical outlet, nothing else should be placed inside.

Each year, about 2,400 children end up in the emergency room after suffering injuries caused by inserting objects—paper clips, pens, screws, nails, forks, hairpins, coins and more—into electrical receptacles. That's about seven children a day who sustain injuries ranging from electric shock to burns.

But this isn't the only electrical mishap that affects youngsters. Our reliance on electronics and gadgets have left both youngsters and their parents at risk when they overcrowd electrical outlets, continue to use frayed wires, place devices near liquids or leave electronics on for long periods of time. Many of the same guidelines we offer to protect

adults can also help protect children. We should all set good examples for our youngsters.

And as they grow older, remember to keep teaching your kids about the power of electricity and how to use it safely. Supplement your lessons at home with resources galore, including those provided on our website, FarmersElectric.coop.



Every year, 2,400 children are injured after inserting household objects into electrical outlets. These are the most common objects placed in outlets:

32% hairpins	11% plug
17% keys	8% unidentified
12% fingers	3% tool
11% pins	1% jewelry

Information is power.

Update your Farmers EC account information today and get more from your Farmers relationship.



Most people like to stay informed. Providing Farmers Electric Cooperative with your accurate and up-to-date contact information helps us keep you that way.

Using our website and SmartHub, we'll be able to communicate with you more easily in routine and emergency situations. We can also keep you informed about power outages and return of service in your area through text and email updates, and ensure your Capital Credit checks are sent to the proper address. Update today. It pays to keep in touch.

Receive text alerts about power outages and return of service in your area.

Make sure year-end Capital Credit rebate checks find their way to your mailbox.

Pay bills and report outages without ever picking up the phone.

CALL: 800 541 2662 or GO ONLINE: FarmersElectric.coop

