

NorVal News

July 2023

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Get Smart About Home Lighting

Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies, which includes smart lighting.

Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

Smart lighting is energy efficient.

Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

Smart lighting provides convenience and control.

Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. You can conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the comfort of, well, anywhere!

Smart options empower you to personalize home lighting.


Bright, warm, purple, green--whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help. For a more traditional look, try dimmable white bulbs. If you want to create the perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors. The possibilities are endless.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind your wall light switch will need to stay "on" for you to control the smart bulb from your phone or via voice command. To use a smart bulb, the wall switch it's connected to must be "on" so the bulb receives power, which enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network.

If you need additional options to operate the lights, consider a smart light switch. Today's smart switches tend to play nicely with smart bulbs. If you want to control your smart bulbs with a physical switch (in addition to using your phone and voice commands), look for smart switches that include a built-in feature that allows both. Many smart light switches include motion detectors as well.

If you're looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart bulbs to your home lighting system, your best bet may be a kit, like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools you'll need to get started.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Smart plugs are inexpensive and simply plug in to your existing outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart bulbs.

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping! 

Open Board Positions

NorVal Electric is seeking applicants for **Districts 2, 4 and 7.**

Applicant should be willing to commit to the Statement of Qualifications for Electric Cooperative Trustees, as well as commit the time to prepare and attend the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors, training opportunities, and State Association meetings. Applicants must be a bona fide resident within the boundaries of the district they are applying for and he or she must be an active member in good standing. Please submit your name for consideration by mail at P.O. Box 951, Glasgow, MT 59230, by phone (406)228-9351, or by email at norval@norval.coop. Should you have any questions, please reach out to the office by calling (406)228-9351.



Our updated hours of operation are **Monday-Thursday 7am-5:30pm**

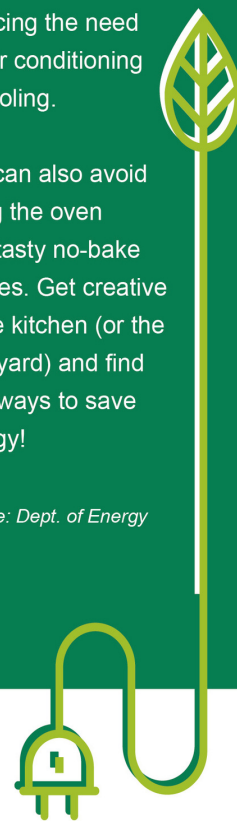
If you are in need of assistance, please call 406-228-9351. Our on-call linemen will be dispatched to any trouble calls.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy



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Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney,
Line Superintendent

I hope everyone had a safe and happy Fourth!

After two years of drought, we are now having to chase the sunny weather down as much as we can. The crews have been bouncing back and forth between the now completed water jobs for Dry Prairie on Highway 24 North and new irrigation sites Southwest of Frazer and South of Glasgow. The amount of rain we have gotten is much needed; however, it has been putting us behind on the planned jobs we have lined up. We are working as fast as we can on the existing projects we have going, but as previously stated, we are trying to find the dry spots among the muck and mud.

Along with all of the summer projects, we are also oil sampling all of the substations. This process is done annually so we can determine the oil properties and identify issues fast. Transformer oil is important in the cooling process of the transformer. Electrical and thermal stress or chemical contamination can cause failures and reduced component life.

It will continue to be a busy construction season, and is already been off to a great start!

