

# *Is your home quietly working overtime?*

After a long, hot summer, colder months are just around the corner. Now is the time to make sure your home is ready for the shift in energy use.

Summer has pushed your home to its limits. From running air conditioning day after day to powering fans, refrigerators, freezers and more, your electrical system has been working hard behind the scenes to keep your household comfortable. And while the air may still feel warm for now, we all know how quickly the seasons change in southeastern Indiana.

Before long, space heaters will be plugged in, electric blankets will come out of storage and lights will turn on earlier and stay on longer. This seasonal shift in energy use can quietly strain outlets, cords and circuits, especially in older homes or areas with limited access to safe, grounded connections. The question is not just whether your home is ready for colder weather, but whether it is prepared to handle the way you will be using electricity as your routines move indoors.

That is why now is a good time to pause, take a look around and give your home the attention it deserves. Start by watching for signs of wear, such as frayed cords, overloaded power strips or outlets that spark or feel warm. These little things can easily be overlooked in daily life but are often the first warning signs that something needs attention.

If you have been relying on extension cords in places where there should be outlets, or if you have rearranged rooms without adjusting where power is drawn from, consider whether it is time for a safer, more permanent solution. And as you begin preparing for the colder months ahead, make sure any high-wattage appliances like space heaters are used correctly. Always plug them directly into the wall and never leave them running unattended.

Being proactive now can help prevent bigger issues later, such as outages, electrical fires or costly damage to your home's systems. This is not about creating worry. It is about building awareness. At SEI REMC, we care about the safety of our members throughout the year. That means helping you plan for more than just storms or downed power lines. It means helping you understand how everyday energy use, especially during seasonal transitions, can quietly build pressure on your home if not managed with care.

So before the cooler air settles in and new routines take over, take a quiet moment to check in with your home. It has worked hard for you this summer. Now is the time to make sure it is ready to keep you safe, comfortable, and protected through the colder season ahead.

