

News Release



**Woodruff Electric
Cooperative Corporation**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: June 15, 2021

Woodruff Electric Encourages To Prepare Your Home For Vacation

Your bags are packed and you're ready to leave your normal routine for a much-needed vacation. As you pack for your destination, remember your home needs a little prep, too.

Along with the usual tasks such having your mail stopped, there are other steps you can take to help deter burglars and even save you a little green. With the money you save, you might have a little extra for umbrella-garnished drinks or destination t-shirts.

Before you leave, here are some ways to save money on your energy bill:

- Adjust your hot water heater. For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low or vacation mode. For an electric version, turn it down or off at the circuit breaker panel.
- Set or program your thermostat to a temperature that mimics the outside temperature (about 80 to 85 degrees). This still protects your wood floors and furniture, as well as if you have pets keeps them comfortable, but saves on energy costs.
- Do not completely turn off your air conditioning during vacation, however, so that the air in your house continues to circulate.
- Unplug small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don't draw power. Also do not leave chargers plugged into an outlet. (This tip is important when you're home as well. Do not leave chargers plugged in when they're not in use since they can overheat. Unplug charging devices after electronics are fully charged.)
- Make sure your sump pump is working.

Take these electrical and plumbing precautions:

- Turn off water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine and all sinks. Or, consider shutting off the main water valve, which cuts off water to the house but still allows water supply to an outdoor sprinkler system.

Here are some ways to keep your home look lived in and ward off burglars:

- If you have a smart home, it's easy to regulate lights in your home remotely. Turn various lights on and off intermittently or have them timed to do so.

- If you do not have smart lighting, put various lights on timers.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to park in your driveway occasionally while you are gone.
- Use motion detectors on outside lights.
- Before you leave, check all windows and doors to make sure they are locked.

And finally, remember to clean out your fridge before leaving so that you don't come home to moldy leftovers.

Woodruff Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Forrest City, is a member-owned electric utility. Woodruff Electric serves electric power to more than 19,000 homes, farms, and businesses in parts of Woodruff, Prairie, Monroe, Cross, St. Francis, Lee, and Phillips counties in eastern Arkansas. The District offices are located in Augusta, Moro and Barton.

###