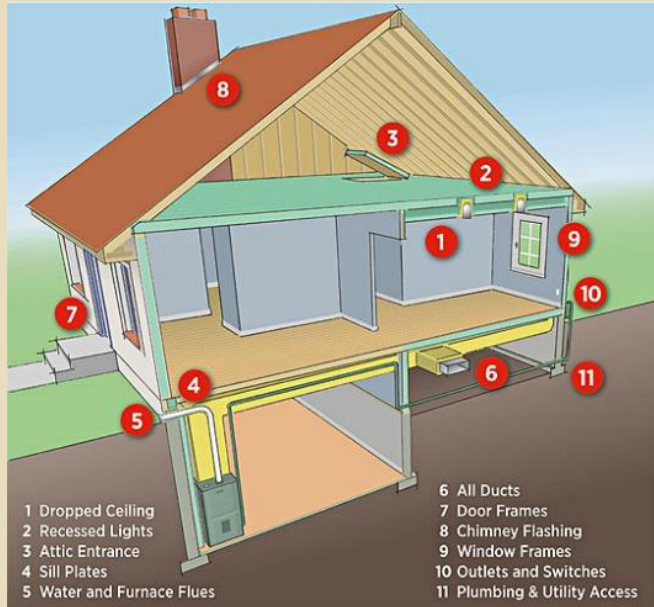




# POWER FACTS

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

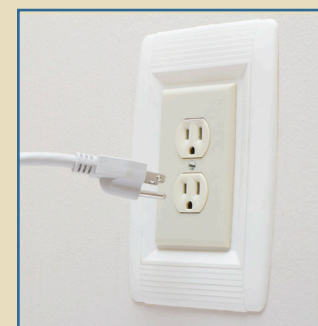
MAY 2013



## Air Leaks are a Major Source of Energy Loss!!

The areas listed in the illustration are the most common sources of air leaks...and can cost you money. If you are looking for ways to improve energy efficiency in your home, there are many no-cost or low-cost home improvement projects that you can do yourself. Performing a simple, do-it-yourself checklist can help you pinpoint several sources of air loss and save you a few dollars!

- Test your home for air tightness. On a windy day, carefully hold a lit incense stick or a smoke pen next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches, and other places where air may leak. If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have located an air leak that may need caulking, sealing, or weather-stripping.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows that leak air.
- Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, or electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.
- Install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on walls.
- Inspect dirty spots in your insulation for air leaks and mold. Seal leaks with low-expansion spray foam made for this purpose and install house flashing if needed.
- Look for dirty spots on your ceiling paint and carpet, which may indicate air leaks at interior wall/ceiling joints and wall/floor joists, and caulk them.





## Mark your Calendars!!

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's  
Annual Meeting of the Members  
will be held June 19.

Be sure to return your proxy cards to our office  
by June 12 so that your vote counts!

Mecklenburg Electric  
Cooperative Offices  
Will Be Closed  
Monday, May 27, in  
Observance of  
Memorial Day



## Sharing Memories



*"I grew up with my grandparents in order to help take care of them. We had a kerosene lamp and a lantern to use. In the winter, we had a wood stove that helped keep the house warm and lit but, in the summer, we sat in the dark most of the time. We got our water from the spring and we had an outhouse back behind the wood shed.*

*After I left home and moved to Baltimore, I finally had electricity but I do remember when the power lines were run through Charlotte County and my parents received electricity for the first time. Things are much different now. Of all the memories...I still remember toting that kerosene lantern." --- I. Belle Atkins, Red Oak, VA.*



We thank Ms. Atkins for sharing her memories of the days before electricity. If you have some that you would like to share, please send it to:

**Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative**  
**C/O : Sharing Memories**  
**P O Box 2451**  
**Chase City, VA 23924**

## 2013 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Electrical Safety for All Ages. ESFi

Each year, electrical failures are the cause of 43,900 home fires, resulting in 438 deaths, 1,430 injuries and \$1.47 billion in property damage. While electrical hazards threaten the public at large, certain populations experience risks that are significantly higher than that of the general population. Our youngest and oldest populations are exceptionally vulnerable. With that in mind, Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) has developed a multifaceted campaign with valuable safety resources targeting our youngest and oldest populations, as well as up-to-date safety resources for the general public. For information on how to make your home, school, or business safe, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).