



OWEN ELECTRIC CONNECTION

August 2020 • Owen Electric • A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Keeping the lights on—no matter what

This is an unprecedented year. After months spent at home, we are grateful that businesses have reopened and that school is starting back up.

During the time spent at home, perhaps more than ever, we realize how vital electricity is to our lives. In fact, many of us believe that electricity is as much of a necessity as food.

What you may not know is that every time you flip a switch, turn on your TV or reach into the refrigerator, there are literally hundreds of hard-working Kentuckians making sure that the power is produced, transmitted and delivered to you around the clock.

We have 135 employees. After the pandemic hit, they worked from home or in staggered shifts from many locations. Our member services representatives answered calls from their homes, often while taking care of children who were out of school. Dispatchers coordinated operations, while lineworkers worked in hot, cold and rainy weather. Every department was affected in some way by new safety protocol.

I thank them all from the bottom of my heart for their dedication



WHITNEY DUWALL

to highest quality service under difficult conditions.

Our focus has never changed: to keep the lights on, to keep people safe and to work with members to get through hard times. We know there are major hardships now and that many people have lost jobs or wages.

By working together, I believe we are going to overcome the challenges from the coronavirus. Our lives have changed, and may be different in the months ahead. We've seen months where people have not been able to hold weddings, attend

funerals or go to church. It's taken a toll on all of us.

The good news is that we at Owen Electric are going to adapt and deal with whatever comes. We will continue to do everything possible to keep you safe and to keep the lights on. We will get through these times by standing together, on rock-solid ground.

President and CEO
Michael Cobb



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

How to clean your thermostat

During the pandemic, if we've learned one thing, it's how important it is to keep surfaces clean.

At this time of year, one of the most-touched surfaces in your home just might be the air conditioner thermostat.

Killing germs on the thermostat's surface is only one reason to regularly

clean it, however. Often, a malfunctioning thermostat is simply dirty.

Dirt can affect the way the thermostat calibrates, which means it must use more energy than normal to maintain a comfortable temperature. In other words, a clean thermostat is a more energy-efficient thermostat.

Cleaning your thermostat can extend its lifespan. Always cut

power to the thermostat's circuit and remove batteries before you begin cleaning.

Here's how to clean your thermostat:

- Remove the cover. Depending on the model you have in your home, you might have to remove screws, but most covers simply snap off.
- Using a clean, soft paintbrush and a gentle touch, dust the inner workings of the thermostat. For grime or debris at points where the electronic components touch, slide an open dollar bill like dental floss between them to loosen and remove it. An alternative tool is compressed air.
- Inspect the device for loose or corroded wires. If you find them, call an electrician to repair; this is not a do-it-yourself job.
- Replace the batteries.
- Dust the cover and then put it back on.

Note that smart thermostats do not need interior cleaning.



NBECA

Run ceiling fan to save energy

Ceiling fans don't cool the air in a room. Instead, they circulate the air, so anyone who is in the room while one is running will feel a sort of breeze. That makes the person feel cooler.

So, there's no point in running a ceiling fan in an empty room.

But for rooms that are usually occupied, a ceiling fan can make the room feel like it's up to 8 degrees cooler than a room without one. And because the fan circulates

cool air, it gives the air conditioning system a break.

In fact, with a ceiling fan running, you can turn your thermostat up by about 4 degrees without sacrificing comfort, according to the

U.S. Department of Energy.

To get the most energy savings from ceiling fans rotate the direction that the fan blades spin when the weather warms up. In the summer, ceiling fans should rotate

counterclockwise so blades push cool air down into the room. In the winter, they should rotate clockwise, to draw warm air up to the ceiling and recirculate it. You must manually flip a switch on most models.



BELPHNAQUE

Support local businesses during pandemic

As restrictions on retailers and restaurants ease up a bit, patronize local businesses so they'll have a shot at a full recovery.

Here are six ways to support neighborhood tradespeople, according to MarketWatch.

1. Order take-out or delivery. If you're not ready to take a seat in or outside of your favorite restaurant, buy food and take it home as often as you can afford it.

2. Buy gift cards. That's an immediate sale for a local business, which sorely needs the cash. But don't spend the gift card now. Save

it until the store or cafe is back on its financial feet. In the meantime, keep spending cash there.

3. Buy online—but locally. If you want to shop online, shop at local stores that are taking online orders.

4. Tip everyone. Tip waiters, delivery drivers and baristas—even if you don't usually tip. They're probably working fewer hours than normal and serving fewer customers, so they're collecting less tip money.

5. Keep paying your housekeeper. He or she may not be able to come to your house anymore, but

the housekeeper—along with your kids' piano teacher, your trainer and other individuals who rely on the income they make by providing you with personalized service—need the money. If you can afford to, continue to pay them, at least something.

6. Don't forget Co-op Connections discounts—many local and national chains offer discounts on purchases. Healthy Savings benefits add to that by giving discounts on vision, chiropractic, dental and many other medical services. Log on to www.connections.coop to learn more.



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Safety Matters

Kitchen safety prevents fire and injuries

The kitchen is the heart of the home, but taking the proper safety precautions is essential to prevent electric shock, fires and injuries.

Without taking the right steps, appliances can pose a risk of electrocution. For example, never use a metal utensil when removing jammed bread from the toaster unless you first unplug the toaster before removing bread.

If attempting to retrieve a utensil or item from the garbage disposal, be safe by unplugging it or by shutting off the breaker. When cooking, be attentive and do not leave appliances unattended.

Over half of house fires start in the kitchen so have a Class ABC fire extinguisher readily accessible that is capable of putting out fires caused by grease or hot oils igniting. Don't place an extinguisher in a place that is hard to reach or stack items in front of it. Reaction time is crucial. If a fire ignites in the oven, leave the door closed and call 911.



SHUTTERSTOCK

The kitchen should be equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) for all countertop appliances. A GFCI acts as a circuit breaker to prevent overload and fire. Test GFCIs every month to ensure they are in working order.

Owen Electric wants you to be safe in the kitchen.

