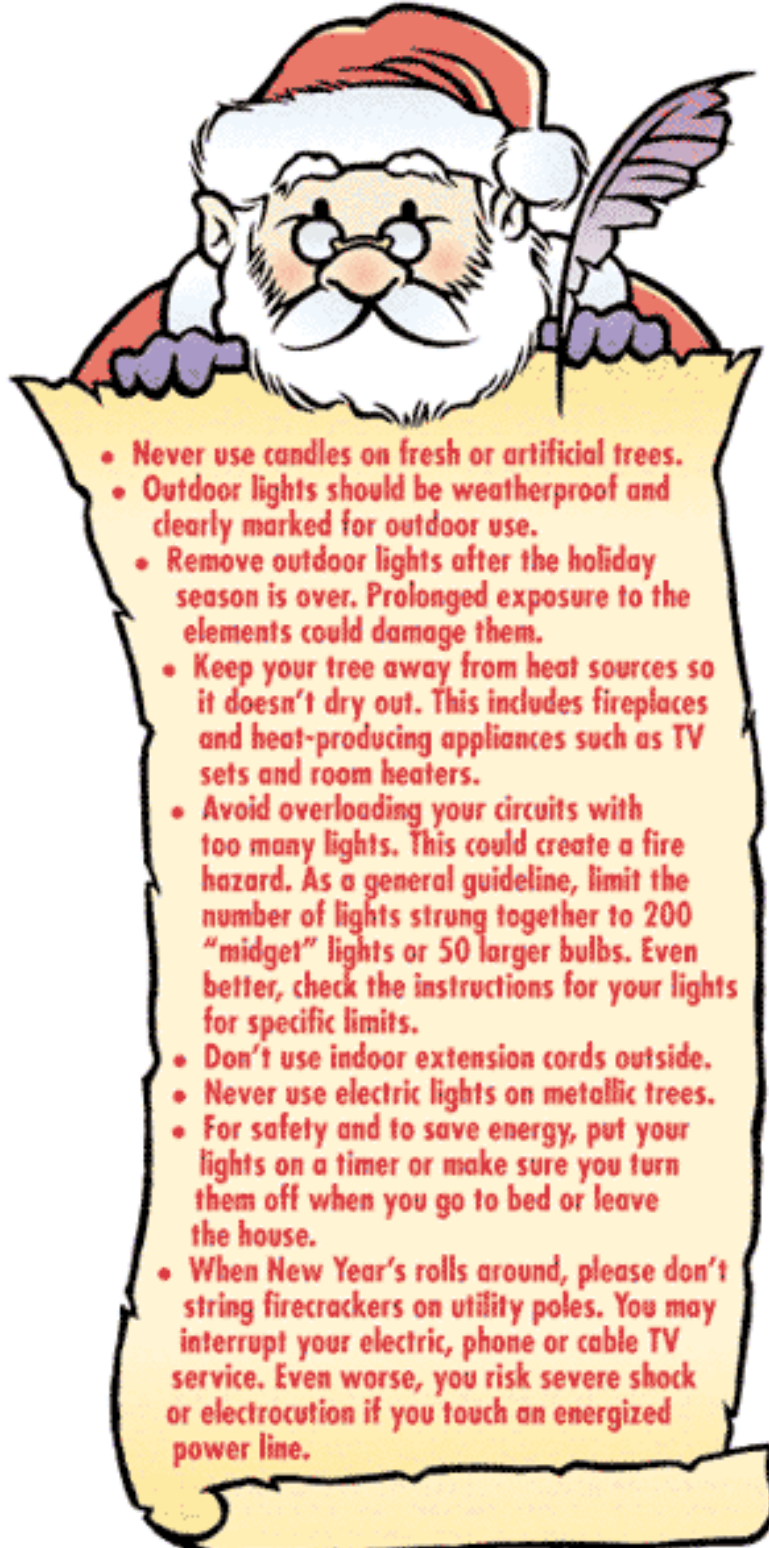




Light up the holidays safely

As you light up the holidays, please keep these tips in mind to ensure a safe and happy holiday season for you and your family.



- Never use candles on fresh or artificial trees.
- Outdoor lights should be weatherproof and clearly marked for outdoor use.
- Remove outdoor lights after the holiday season is over. Prolonged exposure to the elements could damage them.
- Keep your tree away from heat sources so it doesn't dry out. This includes fireplaces and heat-producing appliances such as TV sets and room heaters.
- Avoid overloading your circuits with too many lights. This could create a fire hazard. As a general guideline, limit the number of lights strung together to 200 "midget" lights or 50 larger bulbs. Even better, check the instructions for your lights for specific limits.
- Don't use indoor extension cords outside.
- Never use electric lights on metallic trees.
- For safety and to save energy, put your lights on a timer or make sure you turn them off when you go to bed or leave the house.
- When New Year's rolls around, please don't string firecrackers on utility poles. You may interrupt your electric, phone or cable TV service. Even worse, you risk severe shock or electrocution if you touch an energized power line.

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Give a gift to Mother Earth

After the presents are unwrapped and the parties are over, take a moment to give one more gift this holiday season, a gift to Mother Earth. Recycle your Christmas tree by dropping it off at any one of the Big Island's 21 transfer stations from **December 26, 2000 through January 15, 2001**. Your tree will be recycled into nutrient rich mulch for use in parks and other sites. For more information, call the County's Solid Waste Division at **961-8339**.



Begin the new year with solar savings!

Begin 2001 with a smart investment that can benefit your family for years to come. Replace your electric water heater with a new energy efficient solar water heating system and you may qualify for HELCO's \$1000 cash incentive. The rebate, combined with the State of Hawaii energy conservation tax credit, may cut the cost of a solar system in half. For more information about our Residential Efficient Water Heating Program, call **969-0127**.

POWER TIPS

T'anks for the info!

Facts about tankless water heaters

Some customers have asked us about the tankless (or instantaneous) water heaters they've seen advertised. This new type of water heater does not have a storage tank, but instead heats water only as it is used.

Tankless heaters do offer some limited advantages. By eliminating the need for a water storage tank, they can free up some space in a home or garage. There's also no need for a temperature and pressure relief valve because they do not store water under pressure. Tankless heaters also can provide limited energy savings by eliminating losses from the water storage tank. And they can provide more instantaneous hot water to areas of a house far away from the existing water heater.

However, you should know that tankless models cost considerably more than conventional water heaters, and installation costs are also higher. Moreover, because of their high operating current, tankless models may require you to upgrade electrical service as well as install heavier gauge wiring and larger circuit breakers, especially if you live in an older home.

A few other things to consider: A minimum flow rate is required to activate the tankless unit so you may use more water than normal. And since the water flow rate through the tankless heater is limited, the water may not be as hot as desired when several hot water uses (e.g., showering and laundry) are taking place at the same time.

Tankless models also cause energy use to spike every time hot — or even warm — water is called for in the house. This means that, unlike energy efficient water heating systems promoted through HELCO's rebate programs (solar, heat pump, and high efficiency electric water heaters), tankless models do not help reduce electricity use during the peak demand periods from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Reducing peak use is important because it helps defer the need to build new power plants. It's a good idea to talk to your electrician and plumber and to carefully consider all of the pros and cons before making the decision to buy a tankless water heater.



Paying your bill just got easier

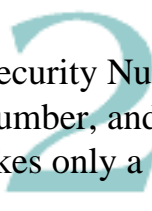
With online bill pay, paying your HELCO bill is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

Step 1 • Sign in to a secure bill payment web site.



Pick from a list of participating web sites where you can securely receive your HELCO bill via the Internet. The list includes Yahoo! BillPay (<http://billpay.yahoo.com>) and other reputable sites.

Step 2 • Enroll online.



Have your Social Security Number, checking account number, and HELCO bill handy. Enrolling takes only a few minutes.

Step 3 • Begin making payments online in minutes!



No more checks to write, stamps to stick or lines to wait in!



Watch The Electric Kitchen! HELCO Customer Service employee **Sandy Satake** was on hand at the recent HELCO in Your Community Energy Fair at the Prince Kuhio Plaza to tell passersby about *The Electric Kitchen*, the cable TV cooking show sponsored by HELCO and our affiliated companies, HECO and MECO. The program now airs on Na Leo o Hawaii Channel 2 (Hilo) and Channel 14 (Kona) every Monday at 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Cinnamon Christmas Ornaments (Non-edible)

- 1 cup ground cinnamon
- 1 tablespoon ground cloves
- 1 tablespoon ground nutmeg
- 3/4 cup applesauce
- 2 tablespoons white glue
- Ground cinnamon for rolling dough
- Waxed paper

Combine cinnamon, cloves, and nutmeg; stir in applesauce and glue. Knead dough for 2 to 3 minutes; divide into 4 equal portions. Dust a board with cinnamon. Place a piece of waxed paper over the dough and roll each portion to 1/4-inch thickness. Using cookie cutters, cut into desired shapes. Poke a hole in the top of the ornaments with a food pick, chopstick tip, or a straw. Place on baking sheets and bake at 200°F in electric oven for 2 to 4 hours, or until ornaments are dry. Decorate as you wish. Makes about 2 dozen 2-inch ornaments.

These are not edible!

