

# Snow Throwers Can Be a Help and Hazard

With winter weather here, it's time to break out the snow-moving equipment. Snow throwers are a big help when dealing with the aftermath of a heavy snowfall, but they can also be dangerous if not used correctly. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, each year, on average, hospital rooms treat more than 5,300 injuries associated with snow throwers. Many of these



injuries are finger amputations that occur when users try to clear clogged machines with their hands; several deaths are also attributed to carbon

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monoxide poisoning resulting from leaving the engine of a gas-powered snow thrower running in an enclosed area.

So, to be safe when using your snowthrower this year:

- Consider an electric snow thrower. They produce no combustion gases and eliminate the

threat of carbon monoxide poisoning.

- If you use an electric-powered snow thrower, be aware of where the power cord is at all times.

- When using any snow thrower, always stop the engine and use a long stick to unclog wet snow and debris from the machine. NEVER use your hands to unclog a snow thrower.

- Always keep hands and feet away from all moving parts.

- Never leave the machine unattended if the engine is operating. Shut down the engine if you must leave the machine for any length of time.

- Never leave the machine running in an enclosed area, especially a gas-powered machine.

Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission, [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

## Before You Buy Any Other Water Heater...

- Marathon water heaters carry a lifetime warranty.

- Plastic tank won't rust or corrode.

- Extra insulated for extra efficiency.

- Available in 50-, 85-, and 105-gallon sizes.



- \$5 per gallon rebates to CME members. Savings from \$250 to \$525!

- Building a new home? You may qualify for a FREE Marathon water heater!

Charles Mix Electric  
1-800-208-8587

## Save Your Energy



# When Ice Builds Up, Power Lines Go Down.



## JustStayAway.CallCME.

# Prioritizing Home Efficiency Improvements

Homeowners across America are struggling to meet the increasing cost of utilities. The best way to lower your energy consumption is to improve the efficiency of your home. But what should you do first?

Your choice of energy improvement projects should be based upon the type and condition of your home. Consider these questions as you craft a personal energy plan:

- What is the condition of the exterior of your home? Repair any broken windows, loose siding, or missing trim before you do anything else. You'll spend extra money on energy each month if outdoor air is whistling through your home. Don't worry about caulking small holes and cracks.

- How much insulation do you have in your attic? Attic insulation keeps your home warm in winter and cool in summer. More insulation is always better—install at least 10 to 12 inches (R-30) in temperate climates, and 15 to 20 inches (R-50) in cold climates.



- Has your furnace or air conditioner been serviced lately? These hard-working appliances are the largest consumers of energy in most homes. Periodic service can improve their efficiency and extend their lifespans. If you hire a professional technician, ask about simple maintenance tasks you can perform yourself.

- How many old-fashioned incandescent lights do you have? These traditional bulbs use three times more electricity than modern compact

fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Buy and install CFLs in any light fixtures you use more than a few hours a day.

- How old is your refrigerator? The newest refrigerators take advantage of technology that cuts their consumption to one-quarter that of older units. Shop for an ENERGY STAR® rated refrigerator to get the most efficient models. Buy a smaller refrigerator than you currently have for added savings.

You can learn more about home efficiency on the ENERGY STAR® website: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

## So "Watts" Killing You?



Use the "Kill-a-Watt" meter to find out!

Connect your individual appliances to the Kill-a-Watt monitor to measure their usage.

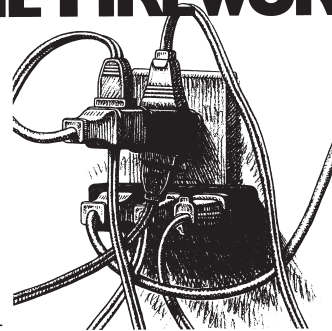
Cut down on utility costs by determining which appliances are the most inefficient.

Let the LCD display tell you how much that extra fridge or old freezer is costing you.

Available on loan with a \$20 deposit. Call 1-800-208-8587.



## STICK AROUND FOR THE FIREWORKS.



Here's an accident waiting to happen. A standard wall outlet designed for two plugs, totally overloaded. It's an all too-common occurrence. Overloading can result in electrical shorts, power outages, fires and personal injury. All of

which are easily avoidable. The best rule is to use only one plug per outlet, and a little common sense. And remember that with every additional plug, you're increasing your chance of an accident. Or at least some fireworks.

**Charles Mix Electric Association**



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