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## Helping you stay safe and save money on home heating

Sometimes it's the little things that count when it comes to heating your home safely and saving money, says SDG&E® gas service technician Jorge Hernandez. Little things like dust and bugs.

"Believe it or not, dust, spider webs, a spider or a green fly can clog a burner orifice and block some of the natural gas and air needed for a gas heater to work properly. Green flies like the smell of gas," Hernandez explained. "I'll see the little culprit,

dried up and dead, clean it out, fire up the furnace and it's good to go."

SDG&E offers free safety checkups on gas appliances such as furnaces, water heaters and ovens year-round, but the colder the weather gets, the busier the service techs get.

"We usually start at 8 a.m. and go until about 10 o'clock at night," Hernandez said. "We don't make repairs or replace parts, but we do troubleshoot and make simple adjustments, such as turning a pilot

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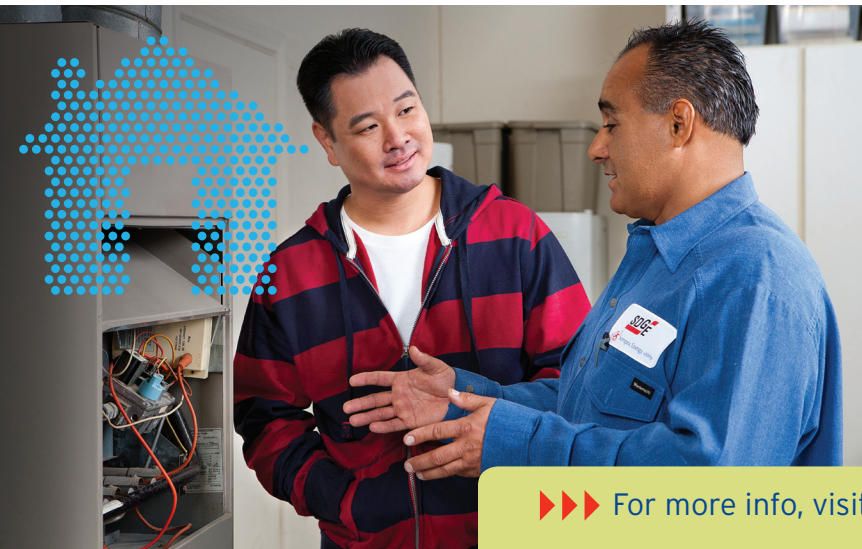


Every day for 100 days we'll give you an inside look at SDG&E on our social channels. Connect with us to learn more on Facebook at [Facebook.com/SanDiegoGasandElectric](https://www.facebook.com/SanDiegoGasandElectric) or Twitter @sdge #SDGEreal.

light back on or tightening a loose wire. I've seen people who have been living without a working furnace and can't afford a new one, when all it needed was to be unplugged and plugged back in to reset a safety switch."

**Gas appliance safety inspections are free for our natural gas customers. To schedule, call 1-800-411-7343 or visit [sdge.com/serviceorder](http://sdge.com/serviceorder). For tips on winter safety and savings, visit [sdge.com/winter](http://sdge.com/winter). ■**

*WINTER WARMUP: "Our number-one goal is safety," says gas service technician Jorge Hernandez, right, "but people usually ask me how to save money. One of the cheapest maintenance steps is to change dirty filters. A clogged filter makes your furnace work harder and costs you money."*



▶▶▶ For more info, visit us anytime at [sdge.com](http://sdge.com).

# Keep the holidays bright and safe with energy-saving decorative lights

## Turn to the right rate option for your EV

If you drive a plug-in electric vehicle (EV), you may be able to save money by choosing one of our EV rate options.

If charging your EV raises your total electricity use from rate tiers 1 or 2, to rate tiers 3 or 4, then you could save hundreds of dollars per year on an EV time-of-use rate.

Here's how you can check. First, estimate how many kilowatt-hours (kWh) you will add to your monthly electric bill. For example, driving your EV an average of 20 miles per day adds about 200 kWh per month. Or, driving 25 miles per day adds about 250 kWh per month. Add this amount to your current tier and if you are moved into tiers 3 or 4 you could save money.

**For details about EV time-of-use rates, visit [sdge.com/evrates](http://sdge.com/evrates). ■**



For holiday lighting, it pays to dispense with tradition. You'll get far more lighting for your energy dollars when you switch from traditional incandescent lights to decorative, light-emitting diodes (LEDs). They're also safer. LED holiday lights with the ENERGY STAR® label:

- **Don't break as easily** since they have no moving parts, filaments or glass, so they're safer for children and pets.
- **Stay cool**, unlike incandescents, which heat up – sometimes enough for a dried-out tree to catch fire.
- **Save money** by using 80% to 90% less electricity to produce the same amount of light (lumens) as incandescent light strands.
- **Last up to 10 times longer** so you don't need to replace them as often as cheaper lights that end up costing you more.

### Holiday lighting safety tips

Regardless of your lighting choices, keep these safety tips in mind.

- Before using, check seasonal lights for frayed cords, loose connections or broken sockets.
- Replace damaged electric cords; don't try to repair them.



*Durable, cool LED holiday lights add a safe, festive touch to the season.*



- Only buy lights with the certification mark of a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL).
- Never use indoor lights outside.
- Attach outdoor lights with hooks. Don't put staples, nails or tacks through cords.
- Don't plug all your holiday lights into one socket.
- Keep electric cords dry.
- Turn off lights when you leave the house or go to bed.

**For year-round lighting tips, visit [sdge.com/lighting](http://sdge.com/lighting). ■**

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 **Semptra Energy** utility™