

December 5, 1973

# RG&E AND consumer news



## More About Lighting

By Miss Anne S. Fenstermacher,  
Staff Assistant-Consumer Affairs

Last week I talked about reducing Christmas lighting with the hope that having this information would help you conserve energy.

Consumers also have been asking me whether much of a savings can be realized from turning lamps out when leaving a room. Lighting actually comprises a relatively small part of a household's use of electricity. Increased care in using lights will not bring drastic savings, but elimination of wasteful use is still beneficial. Small ways of conserving energy can be helpful when done in conjunction with more significant ways. In general it is a good idea to turn off the lights when leaving a room.

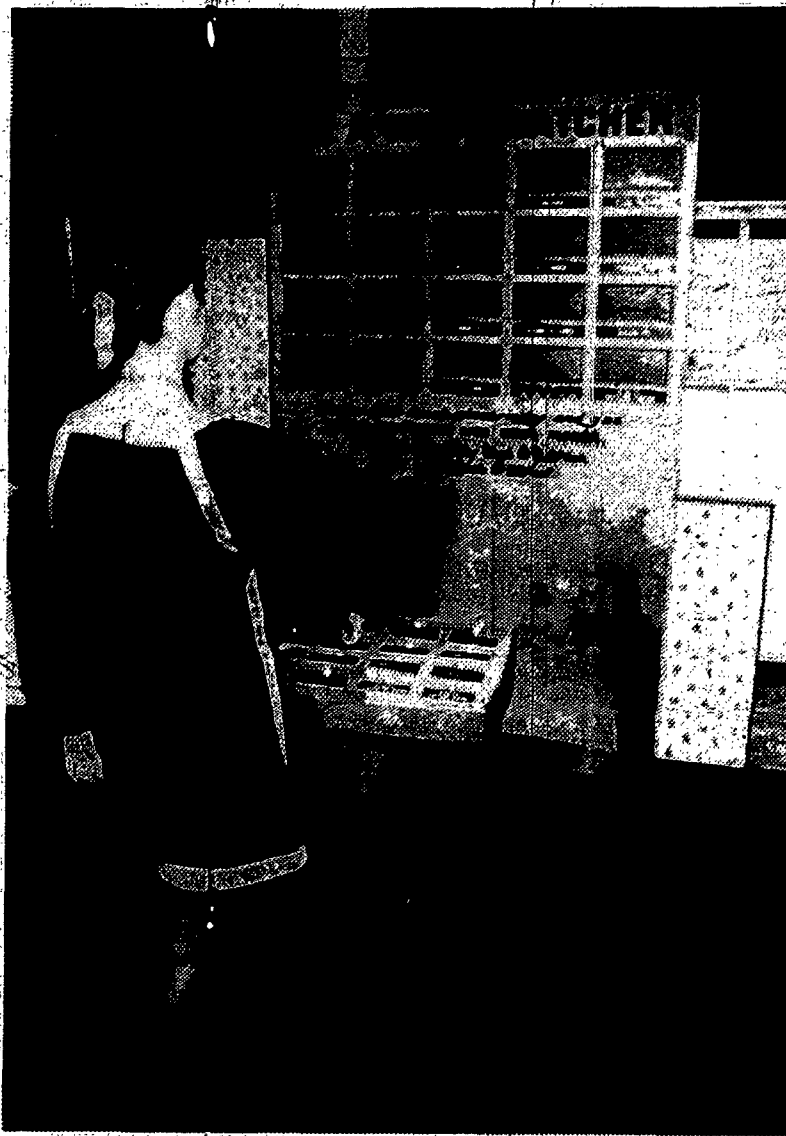
**Incandescent bulbs:** The life of an incandescent bulb is not severely affected by the number of times it is turned on and off. Turning a light on and off does not take more electricity than leaving it on because the surge of

power necessary to start an incandescent bulb is very brief.

**Fluorescent bulbs:** The life of a fluorescent tube is determined by the number of hours it is on each time it is turned on. Years ago it was more economical to leave fluorescent lights on rather than turn them off and restart them. Improvements have been made. Today you will save money if you turn the lights off when you plan to be out of the room for any length of time. In view of the current energy crisis it is recommended that you turn out lights when they are not required.

It is also a good idea to dust light bulbs and fixtures regularly. Bulbs, shades and bowls of table lamps accumulate dust very readily. An accumulation of dust can reduce light output by as much as 50% according to one major light bulb manufacturer. Careful maintenance will ensure that you get the light you are paying for!

## Learn about energy conservation at RG&E's December's Consumer Center



Individuals who are concerned about the current energy shortages can find some helpful information about energy conservation at RG&E's Consumer Information Center during the month of December.

The Center will feature a slide presentation which gives a general introduction to the existence of the Energy Crisis and asks individuals to develop a conserving attitude toward energy use.

The slides show how you can compute the amount of gas and electricity that various appliances use, shows several high users of energy and suggests ways to use these appliances more efficiently.

The accompanying display pictures additional ways that people can save energy in their homes. Two booklets with additional energy saving ideas will be available without charge at the Center. They are entitled, "The Watt Watchers' Handbook" and "53 Ways To Reduce Your Gas And Electric Bills."

## Christmas tree safety

1. Water your Christmas tree frequently to prevent its drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
2. You may want to skip lights altogether because of the energy crisis facing us now. However if you do use lights — don't overload your tree with them. A rule-of-thumb formula to determine the number of lights you need is to multiply the height of the tree by the base width and multiply the total of three.
3. Purchase only those lightstrings that bear the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) seal.
4. Check all lights for defects in wiring, sockets and plugs.
5. Have lights on only when you are at home.
6. Do not overload your electrical system. If other lights dim when tree is lighted, disconnect other electrical equipment while you use the tree lights.
7. Do not string lights on an aluminum tree.
8. Do not use lighted candles on a Christmas tree.
9. Turn your tree lights off when you go to bed. This helps conserve energy.

Visit the  
**BROOKWOOD  
SCIENCE  
INFORMATION  
CENTER**  
THIS WEEKEND  
Lake Road  
Ontario, New York

## Holiday Cookbook Available

The Home Service Department's Holiday Cookbook is now available for distribution. For your copy, please stop in at our Main Office, 89 East Avenue, or mail in the coupon on this page.

## Recipe of the Week

From the Home Service Department

Here's a tasty and economical way to stretch your salad vegetables

### JELLIED VEGETABLE SALAD

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 ounce package lemon gelatin        | 1/4 cup diced onion        |
| 1 cup boiling water                  | 3/4 cup diced celery       |
| 1 teaspoon salt                      | 1/2 cup grated carrot      |
| 3 tablespoons vinegar                | 1/2 cup diced green pepper |
| 1 cup minus 3 tablespoons cold water | Salad greens               |
1. Dissolve gelatin in boiling water; add salt, vinegar, and cold water.
  2. Chill until slightly thickened.
  3. Stir in vegetables. Pour into 8 individual 1/2 cup oiled molds. Chill until set.
  4. Unmold on salad greens.

From the Home Service Department

## Insure a Safe Holiday for All

As the holiday season draws near, many of you will buy or make clothing for gift giving. Now, as always, follow safe practices in picking fabrics to prevent fires. Approximately 250,000 persons are burned each year when their clothing catches fire. The most frequent victims are children and the elderly; more than half of the victims are under 6 years of age. Help protect these most susceptible age groups by purchasing flame retardant clothing or fabric.

Laws have been passed to aid the consumer in making selections. As of July 1973, all children's sleepwear in sizes 0 to 6X must be flame retardant. Imports and yard goods promoted for use by this size range also are controlled by the standards. A modification of these standards will be extended in mid 1974 to cover sleepwear sizes 7 to 14.

In purchasing sleepwear for older age groups, or other types of clothing or yard goods, look for flame retardant fabrics. Some fabrics, such as modacrylics, are naturally flame retardant. Others can be treated so that they will not burn by applying a flame resistant finish. Be aware, too, that fabrics with these special finishes require special care. It is important to follow the laundering directions on the label so the flame resistant properties of the finish will not be impaired. Inherently flame retardant fibers do not pose the same problem.

If you are unable to find a suitable garment or fabric that is flame retardant, the National Fire Protection Association reminds us that some fabrics burn more quickly than others. The natural fibers cotton, linen, silk (except wool) burn quickly. Synthetic fibers burn more slowly but most of these melt and the hot, sticky substance can cause serious burns.

Another determining factor is how the fabric is made. Loosely woven cloth burns faster than tightly woven material. Lightweight clothing can ignite and burn faster than comparable heavyweight garments. Fuzzy fabrics with a brushed nap will catch fire and burn faster than smooth surfaced cloth.

Begin this and every season with a special thought to your family and friends — the assurance of safety in the gifts of clothing they will receive.

Stop at the Consumer Information Center between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. from Monday through Friday. The Center is located on the first floor of RG&E's Main Office at 89 East Avenue. RG&E is consulting with its large business customers about ways to conserve energy. We would also like to help individuals conserve by providing appropriate information at the Consumer Information Center throughout this month.

## Range Booklet Offered

To help you get the most out of your range, our Home Service Department has prepared a booklet, "Know Your Range." It describes range features, ways to make your range more useful, such as in thawing foods, and has 56 recipes which can be used in the creation of oven meals. Stop in at our Consumer Information Center on the Main Floor at 89 East Avenue, and pick one up.

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO:

Dept. 34 Rochester Gas and Electric  
89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649

I would like more information on the following items:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_