

## Christmas bulbs— how much energy

Members of the Christmas light manufacturing industry have initiated a reduction in energy consumption over the last two seasons as a means of protecting the tradition of Christmas lighting. The standard outdoor bulbs have been reduced from ten watts to seven, and the indoor bulbs, which were seven, are now five. Despite the 30 per cent lower wattage the lights continue to shine as brightly as ever. Across Canada, 23.2 per cent of the total consumption of electrical energy is used by the residential market.

Residential lighting accounts for only two per cent of total consumption. According to statistics supplied by Ontario Hydro, the Christmas Council estimates total energy consumption by Christmas lights to be less than one-twentieth of one per cent of the total electrical energy used in Canada.

The following two examples of Christmas light usage is based on four hours daily use for fifteen days:

100 Outdoor seven watt lamps consume an estimated total of 42 kilowatt hours for which

the total electrical cost is approximately \$1.17; 60 indoor five watt lamps consume 18 kilowatt hours at a total cost of 50 cents. Based on the Municipal Residential Rate of 2.78 cents KWH. (1978 Ontario Hydro Figure—rates may vary slightly from province to province.)

Christmas bulbs are available in a variety of colours, shapes, and sizes, ranging from the smaller midget lamps to the larger regular size bulbs. Prices range from 99 cents to \$19. per set and all light sets have C.S.A. approval.

## What are the facts about Christmas?

How much do you know about Christmas and Santa Claus? Here are some questions, developed with the help of the editors of the Encyclopedia International, to test your knowledge. The answers are at the bottom.

1. The first known Christmas card was designed in 1843 by an Englishman named:  
(A) Charles Dickens  
(B) Sir Henry Cole  
(C) John Calcott Horsley

2. The first Christian Nativity feast, celebrating the birth of Christ, occurred in the

### December dangers

It always happens in December... Christmas trees... Decorations... Gift wrappings... They all add up to greater home fire danger. This is the time to take the utmost care to make sure that holiday fun will not turn into family tragedy. Watch small children more carefully at this season than at any other time... And never, never leave them unattended.

fourth century on:

- (A) January 6
- (B) July 4
- (C) December 25

3. Christmas did not become a legal holiday in the U.S. until:

- (A) The Puritans arrived in New England (B) 1856
- (C) Santa's Helpers Union went on strike.

4. The original name of the gentlemen we know today as Santa Claus was:

- (A) Kris Kringle
- (B) Clement C. Moore
- (C) St. Nicholas

1. (C) is correct. Artist Horsley designed the first known Christmas greeting card for his friend, Sir Henry Cole, a wealthy London gentleman. Charles Dickens had his share in Christmas 1843, too. His book

"A Christmas Carol," was published that year.

2. (A) is correct. At first, January 6, the Epiphany, was observed as the feast of Jesus' baptism, with a secondary emphasis on His birth. It was not until the 5th century A.D. that Christmas was generally celebrated on December 25.

3. (B) is correct. New England states outlawed the celebration of Christmas until the middle of the 19th century.

4. (C) is correct. Kris ringle is the German name for Santa, while Clement C. Moore contributed to the image of Santa Claus with his poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," in 1823. St. Nicholas was a real person, a fourth century bishop, and the first Santa Claus.

## Saving electricity during festive season

Illuminate Christmas decorations from 7 p.m. till bedtime only.

Relamp existing Christmas String Sets with new lower wattage lamps. (i.e. for outdoor lighting use 7 watt vs 10 watt bulbs, and for indoor lighting use 5 watt vs. 7 watt bulbs).

Use electric timers to control on off cycles of Christmas lamps. (Note: electrical consumption of timers varies; check power consumption of timer before buying it).

Decorate at Christmas



with regular colored lamps in the home using lower wattages than normal to save electricity while adding to the Christmas mood.

Tree decoration— Place tree in a corner of

the room and only decorate the visible portion with lights.

Turn indoor Christmas lamps on only when people are in the room.

Replace present 100 watt bulbs with 75 watt, 60 watt, and 40 watt bulbs wherever possible.

Enhance lighting effects by using reflective decorations where possible.

Enjoy the Christmas spirit and maintain your energy consumption at a constant level by conserving energy in other areas of your home.

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**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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Hope your holiday is decorated with all things bright and merry!  
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**Merry Christmas**  
May joy and happiness decorate your holidays... every little one!  
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