

## Did You Know?

*What are tamper-resistant electrical receptacles, and are they safer than the outlet covers or wall-plug caps we now use?*

Tamper-resistant, or TR, electrical receptacles have spring-loaded shutters that close off the contact openings, or slots, of the outlet. When a plug is inserted in the outlet, springs compress simultaneously to open shutters that allow the metal prongs to make contact – creating an electrical circuit.

TR receptacles prevent children from inserting an object since the shutters will not open to allow electrical contact.

The National Fire Protection Association urges using TR receptacles because:

- Outlet covers may be lost and pose a choking hazard for children and pets.
- When removed, wall-plug caps don't prevent objects from being inserted in the receptacle.
- The 2008 National Electric Code requires new and renovated homes have them installed.
- A TR receptacle costs about 50 cents more than an unguarded outlet – a small price to pay to keep your child safer.

For more information, visit [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org). More safety tips are available at [atlanticcityelectric.com](http://atlanticcityelectric.com).



Atlantic City Electric offers tips for staying safe during winter storms and possible power outages.

- Stay indoors and listen to local broadcasts for weather updates.
- If you go outside, wear several layers of lightweight clothing rather than just a single heavy coat.
- Wear a hat, and gloves or mittens, and cover your mouth to protect your lungs.
- Know the hazards of wind chill, limit time outdoors.
- Walk carefully on snowy, icy sidewalks.
- If you drive, keep a disaster supply kit in the car and have a full tank of gas.

### Use Care When Shoveling

- Carefully clear accumulated snow from gas and electric facilities, propane and oil tank storage areas.
- Clear snow away from outside vents for proper operation of natural gas appliances, water heaters, and other appliances such as dryers.
- Take frequent breaks to avoid exhaustion and injury.

### If You Lose Power

- Use a flashlight for lighting, avoid candles.
- Never run a generator inside your home or garage.
- Don't use a charcoal grill indoors.
- Cover windows with blankets to prevent heat loss.

For more tips on weathering winter storms, visit [atlanticcityelectric.com](http://atlanticcityelectric.com).



## IN SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY:

**Mar 1-7: Atlantic City Restaurant Week;** Various Restaurants, Atlantic City; [www.acrestaurantweek.com](http://www.acrestaurantweek.com).

**Mar 13: Ghosts of Cape May Dinner;** Mad Batter; 609-884-5404, 800-275-4278, [www.capemaymac.org](http://www.capemaymac.org).

**Mar 14-15: Spring Into Quilting: Love Apple Quilters;** Enterprise Center at Burlington Co. College, Mt. Laurel; 856-795-8533, [www.loveapplequilters@yahoo.com](mailto:www.loveapplequilters@yahoo.com).

**Mar 20-22: Sherlock Holmes Weekend;** Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Cape May; 609-884-5404; [www.capemaymac.org](http://www.capemaymac.org).

**Mar 21: Search for Clues Tour;** Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Cape May; 609-884-5404; [www.capemaymac.org](http://www.capemaymac.org).

**Mar 21: Dinner on the Orient Express;** Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Cape May; 609-884-5404; [www.capemaymac.org](http://www.capemaymac.org).

**Mar 27-29: Cape May Wine Weekend;** Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Cape May; 609-884-5404; [www.capemaymac.org](http://www.capemaymac.org).

**FOR MORE THINGS TO DO IN THE REGION,** click on "About Us" and then "In the Community" at [atlanticcityelectric.com](http://atlanticcityelectric.com).

To include a future event in Lines or online, fax to: 302-283-6095, or send an e-mail to [lines@atlanticcityelectric.com](mailto:lines@atlanticcityelectric.com).

## Income Tax Credits Help Working Families

Low- and moderate-income families may benefit from two substantial tax credits – the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit.

For more information on these tax credits and free tax preparation services, contact the New Jersey Department of Human Services online at [www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/EITC](http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dfd/EITC).



## Take Credit for Energy-Efficiency Upgrades in 2009

Homeowners may be able to take advantage of federal income tax credits for making energy efficiency improvements to their homes in 2009.

New legislation extends tax credits for improvements to windows, doors, roofs, insulation, heating, ventilation and air conditioning units, and non-solar water heaters.

Federal law also extends credits for solar energy systems and fuel cells through 2016, and establishes new tax credits for small wind energy systems and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

Improvements made during 2008 are ineligible. For more details, consult your tax advisor or visit online [irs.gov](http://irs.gov).

## Mutual Assistance: Restoring Service Quickly

When the power is out, Atlantic City Electric knows that customers want the lights back on as quickly as possible. But sometimes damage from storms is so severe and widespread that extra help is needed.

Fortunately, the utility industry supports a program called "mutual assistance." This program speeds up the restoration process by pooling the resources of two or more utilities.

Since it's difficult to have enough resources available to handle all emergencies, mutual assistance allows utilities to "borrow" skilled crews and equipment when needed. This keeps operating costs low.

Also, the program allows utilities to provide extra help and still keep sufficient crews at home to handle both routine and emergency work.

During the last several months, Pepco Holdings, Inc., Atlantic City Electric's parent company, sent crews to the Texas Gulf Coast, Pittsburgh, and Massachusetts to assist utilities in those areas restore service.

For more information on mutual assistance, visit the Edison Electric Institute online at [www.eei.org](http://www.eei.org). And for tips on how you can be prepared for emergencies, go to [atlanticcityelectric.com](http://atlanticcityelectric.com).



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To Report Power Outages: (800) 833-7476