



TIPS TO SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

TO INCREASE COMFORT IN THE FALL OR WINTER:

- Close your curtains and shades at night; open them during the day.
- Remove any window air conditioners and close and seal the windows.
- Cover the windows with plastic by October and through March.
- Eliminate drafts around the front and back doors.
- Block the air path under doors to prevent cold air drafts.
- Keep doors between rooms closed to prevent drafts.

HEATING

- Lower your thermostat at night and whenever the house is unoccupied. Close off and don't heat unoccupied rooms (unless you have a heat pump). If you consistently set your thermostat back at night 5 degrees Fahrenheit, you may reduce your heating bill by 5-10 percent.
- Lower the thermostat and dress warmer. As little as 1 to 3 degrees (F) makes a noteworthy difference in energy consumption.
- Open all of the heating vents and be sure the cold air returns are not blocked and they have a free flow of air.
- Change the furnace filter each month. The dirtier they are, the harder the furnace fan works.
- Don't use the oven or non electric space heaters to heat the residence.
- Use electric space heaters sparingly and keep materials away that may catch on fire.
- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is going. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.

LIGHTING

- Replace standard light bulbs (also called incandescent) with ENERGY STAR rated Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs), especially in lights you use most often. CFLs are available in globe and candle shapes, floodlights, 3-way and dimmable. They use about a quarter of the energy.
- Reduce the wattage of your remaining standard bulbs, if you cannot replace all of the standard bulbs with CFLs.
- Turn off lights when not in use and when you are out of the room for more than 5 minutes.
- Use task lighting; instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it.
- Consider three-way lamps; they make it easier to keep lighting levels low when brighter light is not necessary.
- Consider using 4-watt mini-fluorescent or electro-luminescent night lights. Both lights are much more efficient than their incandescent counterparts. The luminescent lights are cool to the touch. Use LED-type strings for holiday lights.

WATER USAGE

- Turn your water heater down to 120° or the "Normal" setting when home, and to the lowest setting when away. Water heating accounts for about 13% of home energy costs.
- Install low-flow faucets and shower heads.
- Repair leaky faucets promptly; a leaky faucet wastes gallons of water in a short period of time.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- If you're in the market for a new dishwasher or clotheswasher, purchase an efficient water saving ENERGY STAR model to reduce hot water use.

APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS

- Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37° to 40°F for the fresh food compartment of the refrigerator and 5°F for the freezer section. If you have a separate freezer for long-term storage, it should be kept at 0°F.
- To check refrigerator temperature, place an appliance thermometer in a glass of water in the center of the refrigerator. Read it after 24 hours. To check the freezer temperature, place a thermometer between frozen packages. Read it after 24 hours.
- Regularly defrost manual-defrost refrigerators and freezers; frost buildup decreases the energy efficiency of the unit. Don't allow frost to build up more than one-quarter of an inch.
- Consider replacing your older model refrigerator, especially if older than 10 years. Older models can often use over three times the energy of newer models.
- **Always buy ENERGY STAR qualified appliances and equipment - they're up to 40% more efficient.**
- In the average home, 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off. This can be avoided by unplugging the appliance or using a power strip and using the switch on the power strip to cut all power to the appliance.
- Unplug electronics, battery chargers and other equipment when not in use. Taken together, these small items can use as much power as your refrigerator.
- Plug TV and other electronics into a power strip. Turn off the power strip when electronics are not in use.

CLOTHES WASHING AND DRYING

- About 90% of the energy used for washing clothes is for heating the water. Unless you're dealing with oily stains, the warm or cold water setting on your machine will generally do a good job of cleaning your clothes because today's detergents are designed to work well in cold or warm water. Switching your temperature setting from hot to warm can cut a load's energy use in half.
- Wash and dry full loads. If you are washing a small load, use the appropriate water-level setting.
- Dry towels and heavier cottons in a separate load from lighter-weight clothes.
- Clean the lint filter before each load.
- Make sure that the dryer exhaust vent is clear and opens and closes easily.
- Air dry clothes, but not indoors as this creates unwanted mold and moisture problems.

KITCHEN TIPS FOR COOKING AND DISH WASHING

- Be sure your dishwasher is full, but not overloaded, when you run it. Use air drying - open the door when dish washer cycle is complete.
- Scrape, don't rinse, off large food pieces. Soaking or prewashing is generally only recommended in cases of burned-on or dried-on food.
- Don't use the "rinse hold" on your machine for just a few soiled dishes. It uses 3 to 7 gallons of hot water each time you use it.
- When cooking match the pan diameter to the burner size. If the pan is too small, heat is wasted around the sides. If the pan is too large, only the center gets heated.
- Use small electric pans or toaster ovens for small meals rather than your large stove or oven. A toaster oven uses a third to half as much energy as a full-sized oven.
- Use microwave or pressure cooker for smaller items. They will save energy by significantly reducing cooking time.