

Ways To Save

Hot Weather Energy-Saving Tips:

- Set your thermostat at 78°F or higher - every degree of extra cooling will increase energy usage six to eight percent.
- Use ceiling fans and portable fans to circulate the cool air.
- Install patio covers, awnings, and solar window screens to shade your home from the sun. Shade south and west windows with plants or trees to block the heat during the summer.
- Close interior blinds, drapes, or shades to block the sun and heat during warm weather.
- Use a clothesline instead of a clothes dryer.
- Outside air conditioning units, or condensers, should be shaded.
- On warm days raise your thermostat to 80°F or higher if leaving for more than four hours.
- Setting your thermostat to a lower temperature than normal will not cool your home faster.
- Try to save heat and humidity-generating activities (cooking, laundering, and dishwashing) for early morning or evening hours.

Cold Weather Energy-Saving Tips:

- Set your thermostat at 68°F or lower - every degree of extra heating will increase energy usage six to eight percent.
- Dress warmly.
- Use more blankets at night.
- Set ceiling fans on reverse to re-circulate the heat that builds up near the ceiling.
- Cover windows on winter nights with insulated curtains.
- Open interior blinds, drapes, or shades during the day to let the sun warm your home during cooler months.

General Energy-Saving Tips:

Lighting

- Replace all incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Always turn lights off in rooms you are not using.
- Make sure bulbs do not exceed the recommended wattage indicated on the light socket.
- One larger wattage bulb is more efficient than two smaller wattage bulbs.
- Direct light, such as for reading, is more efficient than brightly lighting an entire room.
- Clean light bulbs regularly.

Electric Water Heaters

- Repair leaking faucets. Warm-water leaks should be given immediate attention because they can raise your electric consumption rapidly.
- Drain your hot water tank regularly to remove sediment.
- Consider a tankless water heater; they are 35-45 percent more efficient, pay for themselves in 3-5 years, and never run out of hot water.
- Wrap the hot water heater in an insulation blanket.

- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater. For each 10 degrees of reduction, you can save 3-5 percent in energy costs. 120°F is suggested unless your dishwasher does not have its own water heater, in which case 130°F - 140°F is suggested for optimal cleaning.

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)

- Clean or replace furnace filters once a month (or as needed) with a filter that has a MERV 11 rating or higher.
- Ensure that your HVAC system is properly sized for your home.
- At the beginning of cooler or warmer weather have a professional come out to inspect your HVAC system.
- Have your duct system checked for air leaks and proper insulation.
- Consider installing a "whole house fan" to improve circulation and ventilation throughout your home.
- Do not use humidifiers or evaporator ("swamp") coolers with the air conditioner.
- Close vents in unused rooms.

Appliances

- Use the air-dry option on your dishwasher if available or open the door after the final rinse cycle to dry the dishes.
- Only run dishwashers and clothes washers when fully loaded.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer full. They operate more efficiency when full.
- When drying clothes, do not overfill the dryer and use the automatic setting if available. Dry loads back-to-back if possible. Remember to clean the lint filter between loads.
- Unplug or recycle that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't really need it. Refrigerators are typically the second largest electricity users in a home. If your refrigerator is more than ten years old, consider replacing it.
- Always choose Energy Star-labeled appliances.
- Except for refrigerators and freezers that keep food cold, unplug all electronic devices, chargers, and appliances when they are not being used. They can still use a large amount of energy even when they are in the "Off" or "Power Save Mode". Consider plugging these devices into power strips with an on-off switch.
- Ensure that the clothes dryer's outside air vent is well-sealed.
- Keep the condenser coils on the back of your refrigerator and freezer clean.
- When considering the purchase of new appliances, consult Energy Star (www.energystar.gov) for information on which models they have approved to use less energy, save money, and help protect the environment.

Additional Tips

- Don't leave bathroom or kitchen ventilation fans running longer than necessary; they replace inside air with outside air.
- Improve your roof by installing light-colored, durable materials and by adding insulation.
- Install weather stripping, and seal cracks around windows, exterior doors, and other openings.
- Programmable thermostats can save a household about \$100 per year.
- Take short showers instead of baths.