

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS



Every kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity we avoid using saves us more than 1-1/2 pounds of CO₂ from being pumped into the atmosphere. One of the smartest and most convenient ways to consume less energy AND save money is in your home. Here are some quick tips to help you use your money wisely.

- ✚ Use your central heating system simultaneously with your conventional fireplace to reduce energy losses.
- ✚ By turning your thermostat back by 10-15% for 8 hours you can save 10% a year on your heating and cooling energy bill. For each degree you lower your thermostat in the winter, you can save about 3 percent on your heating bill.
- ✚ Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as needed.
- ✚ Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- ✚ Use a programmable thermostat or automatic setback when possible.
- ✚ Bleed trapped air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season.
- ✚ Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
- ✚ Buying a new home? Consider a home with an Energy Star Rating. They use 30% less energy than required by the Model Energy Code. (Energy Star homes site: www.epa.gov/appdstar/homes)

- ✚ If you are refinancing home, incorporate energy home improvements. The interest may be tax deductible.
- ✚ Replace halogen torchiere lamps with compact fluorescent torchieres. They use 60% to 80% less energy and can produce more light (lumens) than the halogen torchieres.
- ✚ Conduct a do-it-yourself home energy audit to pinpoint where your home is losing energy. (The U.S. Department of energy has a fact sheet on home energy audits: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo/factsheets/ea2.html>) For more information go to <http://homeenergysaver.lbl.gov/>

✚ Purchase Energy Star appliances such as:

- Horizontal axis or front loaded washing machines use less water and energy.
- Clothes driers with moisture sensors turn off the unit when clothes are dry.
- Dishwashers that turn off the heating element and filter in outside air for drying.
- Energy Star labeled refrigerator.
- For more information on energy star appliances go to: http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumerinfo/energy_savers/shoppingguide.html

Did you know...

- ✚ Idle appliances such as, TVs, VCRs, hair dryers, DVDs, etc continue to use energy when turned off. It can account for approximately \$30 of your annual energy bill per household.
- ✚ A family of four, each showering for 5 minutes a day, uses 700 gallons of water a week; this is enough for a 3-year supply of drinking water for one person.
- ✚ Households that replace existing equipment with Energy Star products can cut annual energy bills by 30 percent or some \$400.



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