

Energy Saving Tips

1. **Manage sunlight.** Take advantage of warmth and light from the sun by opening curtains in daytime; close curtains to add an insulation effect at night.
2. **Set your thermostat** to 78F in the summer and 68F in the winter - every degree of extra heating or cooling will increase energy usage 6% to 8%. Setting your thermostat to a lower temperature than normal will not cool your home faster.
3. **Install a programmable thermostat** that will automatically adjust the temperature according to your schedule.
4. **Dress for the weather.** When you're at home, dress in warm clothing in the winter and cooler clothing in the summer to stay comfortable without making your heater and AC work harder.
5. **Heat only where needed.** Use an efficient space heater for small areas, close off unused vents and doors to unused rooms.
6. **Don't leave bathroom or kitchen ventilation fans running** longer than necessary. They replace inside air with outside.
7. **Air seal your home.** Sealing cracks, gaps and leaks and adding insulation can save up to 10% on home heating and cooling costs.
8. **Replace your windows.** If your home has single-pane windows, consider replacing them with more energy efficient windows, or adding solar shades or tinting film.
9. **Clean or replace all filters** in your home regularly. Dirty filters make your HVAC system work harder and run longer than necessary.
10. **Using your ceiling fan** will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort.
11. **Set your refrigerator temperature** to the manufacturer's recommendation to avoid excessive cooling and wasting energy.
12. **Defrost your refrigerator and freezer** before ice buildup becomes 1/4-inch thick to ensure your appliances are running efficiently.
13. **Refrigerators and freezers** operate most efficiently when full, so keep your refrigerator and freezer as full as possible (using water bottles if nothing else). Be careful about overfilling them as this will reduce airflow and cause the appliance to work harder.
14. **Use your microwave** instead of your stove when cooking.
15. **Don't peek in the oven** while baking! Every time you peek, the temperature can drop 25 F, making your oven use more energy to bring the temperature back up.
16. **Turn off the electric oven** a few minutes before cooking time runs out. Your food will continue to cook without using the extra electricity.
17. **Change your light bulbs** to LEDs—including for holiday decorations.
18. **Control your fixtures** with a photocell or a timer to assure dusk-to-dawn only operation of your outdoor lights.
19. **Turn off the lights** when they're not in use. Lighting accounts for about 12% of a typical residential utility bill.
20. **Don't leave your electronics on** all day long. Only turn on your computer, monitor, printer and fax machine when you need them.
21. **Don't leave your mobile phone plugged in** overnight and unplug charges when not in use. It only takes a couple of hours to charge.
22. **Wash your clothes in cold water** if possible.
23. **Turn off heated dry on your dishwasher** and air dry instead.
24. **Watch your appliance placement.** Avoid placing appliances that give off heat, such as lamps or TVs, near a thermostat.
25. **Using dishwashers and clothes washers/dryers at night** will keep the house cooler, reduce strain on the power grid during the peak usage hours of 4 PM and 6 PM and reduce the chance of an emergency!