

Energy Savings Tips

- Don't go in and out of doors needlessly. Frequent opening and closing of doors wastes heat and money.
- Caulk, seal or weather-strip all seams, cracks and openings to the outside. You can save 10% or more on your energy bill by reducing air leaks in your home.
- You can use heavy-duty clear plastic sheets that are taped tightly to the inside of your windows to reduce heat escape through windows.
- During the heating season keep draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce chill you may feel from the windows. During the cooling season keep window coverings closed during the day to prevent heat from the sun.
- Do not block off registers or radiators with draperies or curtains, furniture or other obstructions.
- If registers are adjustable, direct warm airflow across the floor. Air deflectors may also be used for this purpose. Remember that warm air rises; cool air falls.
- If possible, purchase and install a programmable thermostat. You can save as much as 10% per year on your utility bill simply by turning your thermostat back 10 – 15% for 8 hours. The programmable thermostat allows you to automatically turn down the temperature while you are gone or asleep and will bring the temperature back to a comfortable level by the time you return or get up.
- Make sure filters in the furnace are clean and changed regularly; dirty filters block the flow of air.
- Check heating distribution ducts for cracks, holes or separations at joints and repair them inexpensively with ductwork tape.
- Set the thermostat on your water-heater no higher than necessary for household uses (120 – 140 F). If the hot water is hotter than that you will have to add cold water for use, this means your water-heater works 23 hours to keep water at an unnecessarily high temperature so it can be cooled down for the hour or so it is being used.
- Take showers instead of baths, a 5-minute shower uses less than 10 gallons of water, a bath takes anywhere from 15 – 25 gallons.
- Leaky faucets waste a tremendous amount of water. A small leak that fills a coffee cup in 10 minutes wastes 3,280 GALLONS of water a year . . . if it is hot water, you are wasting fuel as well.
- Don't waste water. If it is hot water, you are also wasting the energy it takes to heat it.
- Periodic thorough cleaning assures more economical and efficient use of your range.
- Adjust flame so it fits the pan you are using. Never allow the flame to lap around sides of the pan.
- Defrost foods before cooking and cover pans when practical to hold in heat.

- Preheat oven only when necessary, and avoid opening the oven door when food is cooking. Peeping causes heat loss.
- Periodically check freezer and fridge doors and make sure they seal tightly. Also make sure they are clean, dirty seals prevent the door from shutting tightly.
- Do not use the oven for heating the kitchen on a chilly day.
- Adjust refrigerator and freezer controls to avoid unnecessary colder settings that waste energy (37- 40 F for the refrigerator, 0 – 5 F for the freezer).
- Decide what you need out of the fridge before you open the door; an open fridge door waste energy two ways: the refrigerator motor has to work harder to cool the fridge and the furnace has to work harder to reheat the air.
- Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the fridge, uncovered they will release moisture, which makes the compressor work harder.
- Always wash full loads of laundry but do not overload the washers as this can cut down on efficiency. For smaller laundry loads use the water level control for smaller loads. Hot water is not always necessary to wash laundry.
- Clean the lint filter on the dryer after each load to help keep the machine running efficiently.
- Use task lighting; instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it. Turn off lights or other appliances in any room you're not using.
- Do not overload electrical circuits. Overloading results in reduced energy efficiency and is also a safety hazard.
- Change the bag in the vacuum cleaner frequently to make sure it works more efficiently.
- If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is going. (Keeping the damper open is like keeping a 48-inch window wide open during the winter.)