

HOW TO SAVE ON ENERGY BILLS IN 2016

Wisely managing your home's energy use keeps your energy costs down while providing you and your family comfort through all seasons.



We have plenty of ideas to help you save money on your energy bills.

From how to increase efficiency while using everyday appliances to saving on heating and cooling costs, use this helpful guide to reduce your energy use this year.

The information on these pages was gathered from the U.S. Department of Energy.



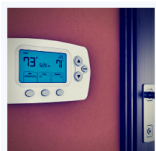
QUICK TIPS

- Use ceiling or oscillating fans to keep air moving, so you feel cooler without increasing air conditioner use. In the winter, change your ceiling fan blades to rotate clockwise, which will pull warm air to the ceiling and redistribute it to warm the entire room. This will allow you to adjust your thermostat by a few degrees without compromising comfort.
- Caulking around door frames and installing weather stripping around door openings are inexpensive and highly effective means of saving energy.
- Ducts that leak conditioned air into unconditioned spaces can add hundreds of dollars a year to your heating and cooling bills. Insulating ducts that are in unconditioned spaces is usually very cost effective. Make sure your existing ductwork is well-sealed and insulated by a professional when you purchase a new furnace or air conditioner.
- Cutting a 15-minute shower in half can save substantially on yearly hot-water costs.
- Don't block vents or ducts inside the house. Maintaining clear air paths allows your cooling and heating systems to work more efficiently.
- About 80 to 85 percent of the energy involved in washing clothes is used to heat the water. Use less water and lower the temperature. Switching your temperature setting from hot to warm can cut washing-related energy use in half.

SAVE ON HEATING & COOLING COSTS

These costs account for about 44 percent of your yearly energy spending. Use these tips to reduce your energy costs.

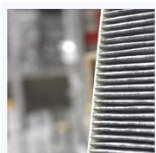
➔ Program it



A smart or wireless communicating thermostat will allow you to automatically turn the temperature up or down after you leave home and

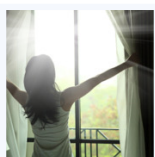
restore a comfortable climate before your scheduled return. But these devices must be used properly to achieve energy savings, and some customers may be better off with a simpler manual thermostat.

➔ Change is good



Replace your air filter each month. A simple reminder is to change your filter each month when you receive your utility bill.

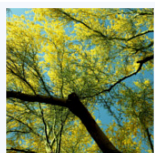
➔ Open and closed



Keep draperies and shades on south-facing windows open during the heating season to allow sunlight to enter your home. Close those window coverings at

night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows. In the summer, use shades, blinds or curtains to keep sunlight out, especially during the afternoon in rooms facing west.

➔ Go green



Plant trees and shrubs to keep the house and the air conditioner's outdoor component in the shade, yet still allow air to circulate.



SHINE BRIGHT

You can reduce your lighting costs by as much as 50 percent by replacing just 25 percent of your lights with compact florescent or LED lights when you focus on bulbs in high-use areas.

Consider switching to LEDs, which can use up to 90 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer than regular incandescent bulbs. Over the course of its lifetime, an LED bulb will save the user an average of \$80 in energy costs.

Otherwise, you can replace traditional incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights that carry the Energy Star label. Energy Star-qualified CFLs use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. They also generate about 70 percent less heat, so they're safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

Turn off the lights in any room you're not using. Consider installing timers or occupancy sensors to reduce the amount of time your lights are on. Instead of brightly lighting an entire room, focus the light where you need it.

Our Residential Efficient Lighting Program includes instant discounts on LED bulbs in addition to CFL bulbs.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Place your refrigerator and freezer in a cool, well-ventilated location and, when possible, some distance from the range or oven. Avoid placing a second refrigerator in a hot garage, which will keep the unit working overtime to try to stay cool.

Clean dirt and dust from condenser coils frequently to help your refrigerator operate more efficiently.

Test your refrigerator temperature and adjust the setting to maintain the correct temperature (37-40 degrees). 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.

Check door seals for proper fit to avoid air leaks. If you can easily slide a credit card between the door and the frame of your fridge or freezer, adjust or replace the seal.

Read food preparation instructions carefully and make sure to follow the recommended temperatures for safe cooking. Only preheat your oven if the recipe or safety instructions call for it.

On stovetops, match the pan size with the cooking element. Covering pans will help cook food faster and conserve fuel.

Run your dishwasher with full loads only, and if your unit has an energy-saving setting, use it.

In the winter, open the door to allow dishes to air-dry, which will save energy and humidify the air, making it feel warmer. In summer, use the machine's air-dry setting, and only wash dishes during cooler times of the day and night.

SAVE ON WATER HEATING COSTS

From fixing leaks to installing timers, use these tips to reduce your energy use related to heating water.

➔ No more leaks



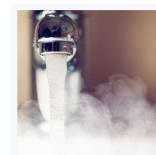
Repair leaky faucets promptly. A leaky faucet wastes gallons of water and can waste energy if the leak is in a hot water faucet. Consider installing low-flow aerators on kitchen and bathroom faucets and water-saving showerheads, too.

➔ Lower the temp



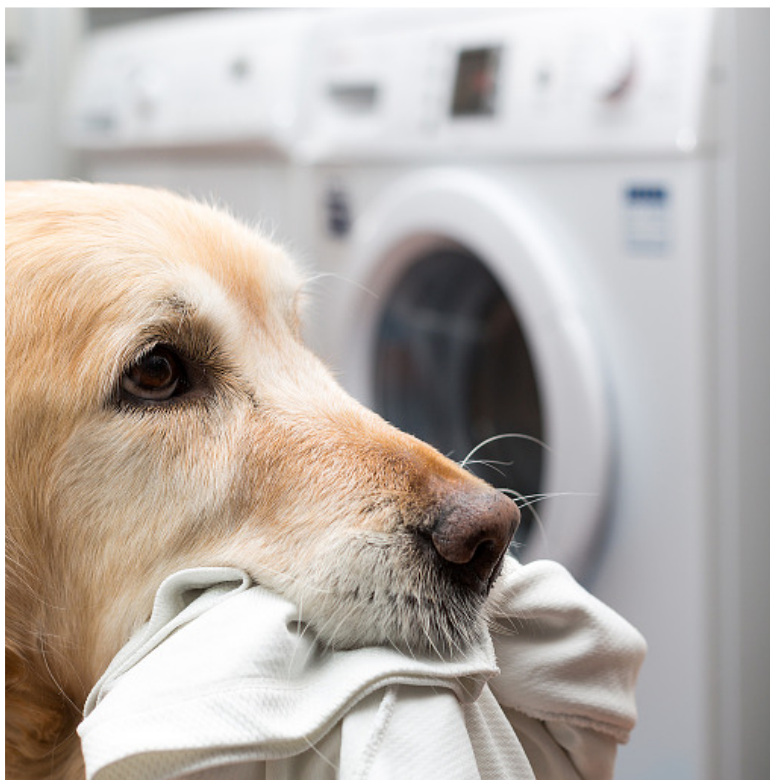
Reduce the temperature setting to 120 degrees, as recommended by the National Safety Council. This will save some of the energy used to heat water for your washing machine and dishwasher while reducing the possibility of scalding injuries.

➔ Upgrade models



You could also replace your water heater with a new, high-efficiency model, or even a solar water heating system. A simple timer can pay for itself in less than a year.

Consider insulating your hot-water storage tank as well, but exercise caution and always follow the manufacturer's recommendations. When in doubt, get professional help! You could also consider insulating the first 6 feet of the hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater to reduce heating costs.



CLEAN AND DRY

When shopping for a new clothes dryer, look for one with a moisture sensor that automatically shuts off the machine when your clothes are dry. Not only will this save energy, it will save the wear and tear on your clothes caused by over-drying.

Wash full loads of clothes, but don't pack them so tightly that air cannot circulate freely.

Wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible.

Dry laundry loads right after each other so your dryer doesn't have to reheat for each load. And do it during cooler periods of the day and night in the summer.

Consider hang-drying your clothes outside on sunny days if possible.

Also, clean the lint tray after each load. This will help improve air circulation, ensuring that your clothes dry efficiently.

Make sure the dryer is vented properly to the outside. Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material, not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.