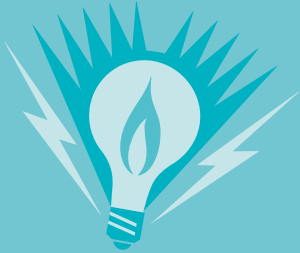




# 33 Ways to Save Energy and Money



**T**here are two keys to saving energy in your home:

- 1) Making sure the “shell” of your home is tight and energy-efficient, with enough insulation, proper caulking and air sealing, and efficient windows.
- 2) Adopting habits that will make your energy dollars last longer. This fact sheet offers 33 tips to getting the most out of the energy you use in your home.

## Heating

- 1) Keep your thermostat set to the lowest setting to which you are comfortable. If possible, try to keep your thermostat set to 68 degrees or lower during the heating season.
- 2) If your heat source is a furnace or heat pump, turn your heat down at night when you go to bed or when you aren't home. Installing and setting a programmable thermostat to control your central heating system will make this easier. We do not recommend this practice with ceiling cable heat.
- 3) Clean or change furnace and air conditioning filters monthly.
- 4) Close your drapes at night to keep heat inside. Open them during the day to allow the sun to help warm your home.
- 5) If you have a fireplace, keep the damper closed when you aren't using the fireplace.
- 6) During winter, keep windows and exterior doors closed to prevent heat loss. During the summer, open windows only when the outside temperature is cooler than the inside temperature.
- 7) Keep your warm air outlets and heaters clean. Arrange your furniture and window coverings so they don't block the airflow from registers or heaters.

- 8) Caulk or weatherstrip seams and openings from the inside to the outside of your home to prevent heat loss or gain.

## Lighting

- 9) Where possible, replace incandescent light bulbs with low wattage compact fluorescent bulbs. Check to make sure the lumen output of the CFL bulbs is the same or greater than the incandescent bulbs they replace.
- 10) Use timers, motion sensors or light sensors so security lights come on only when needed.
- 11) Turn off lights that are not needed.
- 12) Dust your light bulbs and clean the fixture covers to get the most light out of your fixtures.

## Water heating, washing and drying

- 13) Set your water heater thermostat at 120–130 degrees.
- 14) Wash only full loads in your clothes washer and dishwasher.
- 15) If your washer has water level options, use the lowest practical level for anything less than a full load. Use a cold water rinse for all loads.
- 16) On your dishwasher, use the “air dry” setting and other power-saving features.
- 17) When buying a new clothes washer, consider a model that meets Energy Star® standards. Energy Star® models can use up to 50 percent less water and up to 40 percent less energy. They also use less detergent.

- 18) When possible, wash your clothes in cold water using a cold water formulated detergent.
- 19) Clean the lint screen on your dryer before every load.
- 20) Repair leaking or dripping faucets.
- 21) Install efficient showerheads that use 2.5 gallons per minute or less.
- 22) If you'll be gone four days or more, turn off the circuit breaker to your electric water heater tank at the main switch box (except in freezing weather).
- 23) Always insulate pipes in unheated areas. Foam pipe wraps work best. Don't forget to wrap the hot water pipe leaving your water heater.

## Cooking

- 24) Use your microwave instead of your range oven to warm food.
- 25) Use flat-bottom pans to get the best contact with heat. Use tight-fitting lids to keep steam in the pan.
- 26) Try to match the pan size to the burner size. Using too small a pan on a large burner can waste energy.

- 27) Cook more than one item at a time when you use your oven.
- 28) Use a timer to reduce the number of times you open the oven door during baking.

## Refrigerating/freezing

- 29) Keep your refrigerator at 38 degrees and your freezer at 0 degrees. Your freezer will work more efficiently if you keep it full (partially fill milk jugs with water and store them in the freezer to fill up space).
- 30) Defrost your freezer when ice or frost gets one-quarter-inch thick or more.
- 31) Vacuum or dust your freezer/refrigerator coils at least every six months. Coils are on the back of or underneath the appliance.
- 32) Check your refrigerator and freezer door gaskets periodically for signs of deterioration, and replace them when necessary.
- 33) Read the "Energy Guide" label when purchasing new major appliances. Compare the energy costs of similar models. Consider Energy Star® appliances. A wise up-front investment can mean many years of energy savings.



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## QUESTIONS?

**We're here to help you**

**however we can.**

**Just call one of our**

**energy counselors at**

**360-992-3355.**