

25 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAVE ENERGY

Little things mean a watt

1. Lower your thermostat at night and when you're not home. Use a programmable thermostat so it's automatic. Set that thermostat to come on early in the morning - around 5 a.m. Every degree lower can take 2 percent off your power bill.
2. Shut off lights, computers and other appliances when you're not using them.
3. Switch to compact fluorescent bulbs. They use two-thirds less energy than regular incandescent bulbs.
4. Replace halogen-lamp torchieres with compact-fluorescent torchieres. They use about 70 percent less energy, produce more light, and are much safer.
5. Use motion detectors to control outdoor lights rather than leaving them on all night.
6. Close your fireplace damper when there's no fire. Leaving it open is like having a 48-inch-square hole in your roof.
7. Close off and don't heat unoccupied rooms (unless you have a heat pump).
8. Take showers using low-flow showerheads (they use 50 percent less hot water) instead of baths.
9. Set your water heater at 120 degrees (F), which is comfortable for most uses. Turn your water heater off when you go on vacation.
10. Run only full loads in your dishwasher.
11. Use warm or cold water in your washing machine.
12. Air dry your dishes. In spring and summer, air dry your clothes.
13. Replace your furnace and heat pump filters monthly to keep them operating efficiently.
14. Limit use of kitchen and bathroom fans since they pull heat out of the house.
15. Open south-facing drapes and blinds during the day to let heat in. Cover all windows at night in winter.
16. Weatherstrip around your doors and windows and anywhere you feel a draft.
17. Set your refrigerator between 37 and 40 degrees (F).
18. Keep your freezer well stocked. It takes more energy to cool an empty freezer. Fill empty milk jugs with water and stick them in your freezer if necessary.
19. Clean refrigerator coils. Clean clothes dryer lint traps before each load.
20. Use a microwave or toaster oven for cooking and heating small portions.
21. Check ceilings and crawl spaces to ensure there's adequate insulation.
22. Seal or fix broken basement windows.
23. If your floor is uninsulated (usually in older homes), seal the crawlspace off from cold outside air by closing operable foundation vents. If the floor is insulated (newer homes), there is no need to close vents. (If there is water or a source of moisture in the crawl space, call a contractor or plumber to help you identify and eliminate the water source.)
24. Fix broken ducts and replace cracked or peeling tape on ducts. Use tape with the UL (Underwriters Laboratories) logo.
25. For long-term savings, choose and use energy-efficient appliances. Buy appliances with the Energy Star label.



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