

Conservation. It's not just good for the environment. It's good for your wallet, too.

Air Conditioning and Heating

Air conditioning and heating consume about half of all the electricity you use.

- Set thermostat on auto at 78° in summer, 68° in winter.
- Changing your summer setting from 75° to 78° will save about 24 percent in cooling costs.
- Set temperatures 5 to 10 degrees warmer when leaving home for more than one hour in summer and 5 to 10 degrees cooler in winter.



- Change your heating and cooling system air filter every month. A dirty air filter makes your system work harder, which uses more energy.
- Run ceiling or table fans in addition to air conditioning. Fans don't use much energy, and can make you feel 5° cooler.
- Close shades / blinds to keep heat out in summer.
- Make sure your indoor heating / cooling vents and returns aren't blocked.
- Keep the exterior portion of your heating and cooling unit free of blockage and debris.
- Seal holes in walls where pipes and wires enter and exit the home.
- Put weather stripping around doors and windows to seal gaps.
- Use R38 insulation in the attic.
- Have heating and cooling system checked annually to ensure efficient operations.



Water Heater

- Set water heater between 120° and 130°.
- Turn circuit breaker off for safety when adjusting water heater temperature control.
- Consider adding an insulation jacket to the hot water tank and insulating the water pipes to retain heat in the system.



Washer / Dryer

- Wash full loads and use cold water.
- Clean your dryer lint trap after each load.
- Clean lint from inside your dryer exhaust line, and make sure it's connected tightly.

Refrigerator and Stove

- Keep refrigerator temperature on 40° and freezer at 5°.
- Insert a dollar bill along the edge of your open refrigerator and close the door. If you can pull the dollar bill out easily, you have a loose seal.
- Tighten the rubber seal on your refrigerator with hot air from your hair dryer—just run dryer all the way around the seal.
- Keep your freezer as full as possible to keep it cold and save energy.
- Use your microwave instead of the stove whenever possible.
- Don't use your stove to heat your house.



Lighting



- Turn off fans, lights and other appliances when not in use.
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs cost less to use because they last much longer than regular bulbs, use less energy and don't give off heat. Change your five most used bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Water

- Make sure the rubber flapper in your toilet tank forms a tight seal to keep water from leaking into the bowl. Leaks can add 50 percent or more to your water bill.
- Install a high-efficiency showerhead, which can use 50 percent less water.
- To test for a leak, put 3 drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. If it shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. It's easy to fix and it can save 600 gallons a month.
- Don't put cleaning tablets in the toilet tank—they can corrode the rubber flapper and cause it to leak.
- Replace toilets manufactured before 1994 with water efficient toilets.
- Letting water run while you wash your car can waste 150 gallons of water, so use a shutoff hose or turn the water off when you are not using it.
- If you have an irrigation system, set it to water no more than twice a week from April thru October, and no more than once a week November thru March.
- Fix leaky faucets. One drip a second equals 200 to 240 gallons per month.
- Check your bill to track your water usage.



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