

CUTTING DOWN YOUR ENERGY BILL



Use the below ideas to cut down on your energy bill!

COOLING

Fans: Fans blowing directly on you can make temperatures around you feel up to 4° cooler.

Thermostat setting: Set the thermostat 78° or higher when the house is occupied and at 85° when vacant.

Air conditioner condenser:

- Keep debris, high grass and other obstacles away from your air conditioner's condenser so that airflow to the unit is not blocked.
- Clean your AC condenser/evaporator coils at the beginning of the season.

Filters: Clean or replace filters at least once a month.

Caulking: Caulk and weather-strip around your windows and doors.

Air conditioning unit: Shade your outdoor AC unit.

Shade: Plant trees to shade your windows.

HEATING

Heating a home takes 2-3x more energy than cooling one.

Plug outlet covers: Install plug outlet covers on any unused outlet. About 20% of the air that escapes your home escapes through outlet openings.

Glass fire screen: Install a glass fire screen to keep heated air from escaping through the chimney.

Water pipes: Insulate indoor water pipes in unheated spaces.

Ducts/vents: Inspect insulation to make sure it's not blocking ducts or vents. Blown-in insulation can settle over time and may need to be fluffed or increased.

Thermostat setting: Set your thermostat at 68°. For every degree you raise the temperature, you add 3-5% to the electric bill. If your home uses a heat pump, raise the thermostat setting two degrees at a time when adjusting the temperature. This will avoid running the compressor and supplemental heat at the same time.

Caulking:

- Effective caulking can help prevent air from entering and escaping through cracks and gaps around windows and doors.
- Caulk when the temperature is over 40°F. If the weather is too cold, the caulk may not adhere.
- Caulking should be used only on joints that don't open or close, such as the seam between a window frame and a wall.
- Although most caulk lasts at least 25 years, settling makes it necessary to check your home for cracks in the caulk every few years.

INSULATION

Holes and patches: Find holes and patches in your house where air can invade and fill it up with plastics or weather strips so that your heating and/or cooling system will not be overworked.

Windows and doors: Remember to keep all doors as well as windows closed at all times.

LIGHTING

Lights: Turn off lights when leaving a room.

Lamp shade: Keep the dust off of lampshades and light bulbs. It can reduce lighting levels as much as 50%.

Light bulbs:

- Change your bulbs to fluorescent. Fluorescent light bulbs use 70% less electricity than regular light bulbs, give off 5 times more light, emit 90% less heat and last 10 times longer.
- Use LED lightbulbs. They last longer and are more energy efficient. Their lifespan isn't affected by how often they're turned on/off, they're durable, and they have flexible voltage requirements.

REFRIGERATORS & FREEZERS

Temperature settings: Set the temperature between 36° and 38°. Freezer temperatures should be between 0° to 5°.

Thawing food: Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator rather than on a countertop. Not only is it safer, but frozen items will help cool the refrigerator as they defrost and help reduce its running time.

Freezers: Freezers work better fully loaded, but remember to leave enough room to air circulate.

Sealing: Make sure your refrigerator and freezer doors seal properly.

COOKING

Microwave ovens: Use up to 70% less energy, cook food up to 75% faster, and produce much less heat than an electric gas oven.

Pot lids: Using covers on pots will bring liquids to a boil more quickly and allow continued cooking at lower temperatures, reducing energy use and heat in the kitchen.

OTHER APPLIANCES

Laundry: Wash/dry full loads of clothes and use cold water as much as possible.

Gadgets: Never put lamps, TV sets and other heat-generating gadgets beneath a wall-mounted thermostat. Rising heat from these appliances may trigger your conditioning system to overwork.

OUR OFFICE LOCATION

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