

Energy Savings Tips

Insulate Hot Water Pipes

Insulate all accessible hot water pipes, especially within 3 feet of the water heater. Use quality pipe insulation wrap, or neatly tape strips of fiberglass insulation around the pipes. Pipe sleeves made with polyethylene or neoprene foam are the most commonly used insulation. You can get pre-slit pipe foam at most hardware stores. Place the pipe sleeve so the seam will be face down on the pipe. Tape, wire, or clamp the sleeve every foot or two to secure it to the pipe. If you use tape, some recommend using acrylic tape instead of duct tape.

Apply Permanent Weather Stripping

You may not think that those small cracks and crevices around your doors and windows are a very big deal. But, did you know that a 1/8" space between a standard exterior door and its threshold is equivalent to a two square inch hole in the wall? Closing those gaps can save you up to 15 percent in heating and cooling costs and also can reduce the demand on your heating and cooling system. To determine how much weather stripping you will need, add the perimeter of all windows and doors to be weather stripped, then add 5-10 percent to accommodate any waste.

Install a Programmable Thermostat

Highly recommended by all Energy Technicians - You can save as much as 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills by simply turning your thermostat back 10-15 percent for 8 hours. You can do this automatically, without sacrificing comfort, by installing a setback or programmable thermostat.

Using a programmable thermostat, you can adjust the times you turn on the heating or air-conditioning according to a preset schedule. As a result, the equipment doesn't operate as much when you are asleep or when the house or part of the house is not occupied. Programmable thermostats can store and repeat multiple daily settings that you can manually override without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program.

Use Motion Sensor Outdoor Lights

Many homeowners use outdoor lighting for decoration and security. When shopping for outdoor lights, you will find a variety of products, from low voltage pathway lighting to motion detector floodlights. Use outdoor lights with a photocell unit or a motion sensor so they will turn on only at night or when someone is present. A combined photocell and motion sensor will increase your energy savings even more.

Insulate Windows and Doors

You can block the flow of cold air into your home by insulating the windows (single pane) and doors. Begin by installing a clear plastic film across the inside of your windows and frames. Then heat the plastic with a blow dryer until it becomes nearly invisible. The trapped pocket of air between the plastic film and the window acts as an effective insulator which can help reduce heat loss through the window by 25 to 50 percent. Best of all, it's a relatively inexpensive project!

Maintain Your Furnace - A Top Priority

When was the last time you had your furnace cleaned and serviced? Spending the money to have the work done now will help save up to 10% or more on heating oil!

If your entire furnace is in need of replacement, it will be costly. Replacing an inefficient burner for a modern machine, however, will save you every month through the heating season.

Replace or clean furnace filters once a month during the heating season. Dirty filters restrict air flow and increase energy demand.

Keep Unused Rooms in Your Home Closed Off

If you only use your office to use your computer, move your computer out for the winter and close the room off. You can completely shut the vent off and decrease the amount of heat needed to heat your house. Keep closet doors closed when not in use.

Get Moving

If you sit for a long period of time, you might start to feel a little cold in your 64 degree home. Solution? Move! Not only will this heat your body up, it will get your heart pumping and add some exercise to your day, making it a definite win-win situation.

Use a Humidifier

Moist air holds heat, so your home will be warmer and your furnace will have less work to do. When you use the oven to prepare meals, make sure you leave the oven door open to let the residual heat warm your kitchen. Only do this if you don't have small children or pets that might get burned.

Keep Radiators Clean

Look at all your radiators and clean them if they are collecting dust. You can obtain a radiator cleaning brush from the hardware store and use it, along with a vacuum cleaner, to make sure radiators are dust and dirt free.

Run Fans In Reverse

Most people think of fans only when they want to be cool, but many ceiling units come with a handy switch that reverses the direction of the blades. Counterclockwise rotation produces cooling breezes while switching to clockwise makes it warmer: hot air rises, and changing your fan direction to counter clockwise will push the hot air down into the room, cutting your heating costs as much as 10%!

Storm Doors

The simple act of installing a storm door can increase energy efficiency by 45%, by sealing drafts and reducing air flow. Storm doors also offer greater flexibility for letting light and ventilation enter your home. Look for Energy Star-certified models. Add Insulation Insulation is one of the best ways to save energy and money at home. An unfinished attic can account for a great percentage of a home's heat loss during winter. Make sure o your attic floor and basement ceiling are well covered.

Consider Adding a Glass Enclosure For Your Fireplace

When it's not in use, make sure the damper is closed.

Clean Behind and Underneath The Refrigerator Annually

Lower the temperature setting to mid-range (in the freezer too).

Use Kitchen and Bath Fans Wisely

In just one hour, a hard-working bathroom or kitchen fan can expel a houseful of warm air, according to the Department of Energy. Turn them off as soon as they've done their job.

Turn Down The Water Heater

Lowering the temperature of water in the water heater to 115-120 degrees reduces power use often without a noticeable difference to the user.

Wash Your Clothes In Cold Water

Yes, we know you like to wash those whites in super-hot water. Just be mindful that you can wash much of your laundry (if not all of it) in cold water. You will save money during the winter months, and yes, your clothes will still be clean.

Use The Sun

Keep curtains open and let the sun naturally heat your home during the day. Shut them before the sun goes down to retain some of the heat.

UNPLUG Appliances When Not In Use

This is a BIG secret to saving money on utility costs over time. Your coffee maker, battery charger and computer or anything that operates on demand, can actually consume energy at a trickle just by being plugged in. Similarly, electronics in stand-by mode are estimated to suck up to 8 percent of a home's electric bill. A few examples of "vampire" electronics are clock radios, laptop computers, cordless phone bases, cell phone charger, and printers.

Dress In Layers and Use Extra Blankets

Using an extra blanket when you sleep at night or even wearing an extra sweatshirt or shirt will help you keep your heating bills lower as you will be less tempted to raise the heat when you start to feel chilly, this may sound like a really simple idea but it also really will help you save money on those home oil heating bills.

And Listen to your Mother. Turn off the Lights When You Leave a Room!