




## Use Less Energy, Save Money, and Help the Environment!

- When not in use turn off lights, appliances, home office and entertainment equipment. Many appliances continue to draw a small amount of power when they are switched off. When going away for a weekend unplug stereos, TV's, DVD players, computers, etc. Using a power strip to cut off all power makes turning off everything a SNAP!
- Using compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's) in fixtures throughout your home provide high quality and high efficiency lighting. CFL's last 10 times longer and use 75 % less energy.
- Keep thermostat set at a constant comfortable temperature. Consider installing a programmable thermostat for more energy efficiency.
- Incorporate more daylight into the house to cut back on usage of lights.
- Check windows for air leaks. Install tight fitting insulating window shades on windows that have a draft to them.
- A drafty house lets cool air in, so make sure all caulking and weather stripping form a tight seal.
- Repair and weatherize your current storm windows.
- Landscaping is a natural and very attractive way to keep your home cool in the summer time and reduce the cost of energy bills. A well placed tree, shrub, or even a vine can deliver effective shade, which allows your unit to work more efficiency and reduce your energy bill.
- Change or clean your heating or cooling filter once a month when in use. Dirt clogging the filter makes the unit run harder.
- Keep energy bills out of hot water. Insulating your water heater will save you energy and money.
- Install rubber gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls.
- Install storm windows over single-pane windows or replace them with double-pane windows.
- When your fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed. If not closed, warm air escapes 24/7.



- Use cold water to wash laundry and use your dryer for a short amount of time to get the wrinkles out. Finish drying by hanging clothes on a line outside or in a laundry room. Energy from the sun is free. 
- Cook with smaller appliances or the microwave. Small appliances use less energy than a stove top range, and the microwave takes less time to cook.
- Use pots that fit the size of the burners on the stove, also use lids to cook at a lower temperature.
- When shopping for appliances such as a refrigerator, freezer, or air conditioner look for the Energy Star label and purchase the most affordable energy efficient model.
- Vacuum the refrigerator coils at least twice a year to ensure the compressor runs efficiently.
- Do not leave the refrigerator door open longer than needed. Up to 30% of cold air escapes when the door is open.
- Check refrigerator seals to make sure they are airtight.
- Do not overload the refrigerator. Cold air needs to circulate freely to keep foods at the proper temperature.
- Cover all food before storing. If not covered moisture escapes from food and makes the compressor work harder.



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