

## Water Heating

- Use less hot water – it's the best way to save
- Set your water heater thermostat no higher than 120-125 degrees – this satisfies manufacturer requirements for most dishwashers (Note: some child safety experts recommend 120 to prevent scalding)
- For safety's sake, always shut off the circuit breaker before changing, refer to the documentation provided by your equipment manufacturer for instructions, or have a licensed electrician do it
- Turn the heater off at the breaker switch when leaving two or more days
- Repair leaky faucets – a small leak can cost big bucks in water and electricity
- Consider using low flow showerheads (2.5 gallons of water per minute or less) to reduce hot water usage in the shower by as much as 70%
- If the outside of the water tank feels cold, insulate it - tanks made before 1989 are sometimes poorly insulated
- Insulate pipes using inexpensive pipe insulation from your local hardware store
- **Water heating is typically the number two energy user in your home.**

## Refrigerator / Freezer

- For best efficiency, set refrigerator from 37-40 degrees, and freezer from 0-5 degrees
- Minimize door openings as much as possible. Each time the door opens, cold air escapes, and the unit must work harder to replace the cold air. Try to keep the door open no longer than necessary.

- Keep coils clean of dust, which impairs heat exchange and makes the compressor work harder
- Try to place your refrigerator away from heat sources, like an oven or dishwasher. A 10 degree increase in adjacent temperature can significantly increase energy consumption
- **Make sure doors seal properly. To test the seal, place a dollar bill between the seal and the refrigerator and close the door. When you pull the paper out, you should feel tension. If you don't, the seal may need replacing.**

## Lighting

- Take advantage of natural light - open blinds and shades when possible
- Turn off lights in unoccupied areas or in spaces with sufficient natural lighting
- Consider using compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs) because:
  - CFLs use 75% less energy than regular incandescent bulbs; A 14-watt CFL provides as much light as a 60-watt standard bulb – equal light, much less energy used
  - CFLs generate about 70% less heat, lowering air conditioning costs more
  - CFLs save about \$30 in electricity cost alone over the life of a bulb
  - CFLs last 8 to 10 times longer than regular bulbs
  - CFLs come in 3-way, dimmer, outdoor, flood, globe and more - just about any current application now has a CFL option.
- **Lighting is typically about ten percent of total home energy usage.**

## Other Factors That Impact Energy Usage

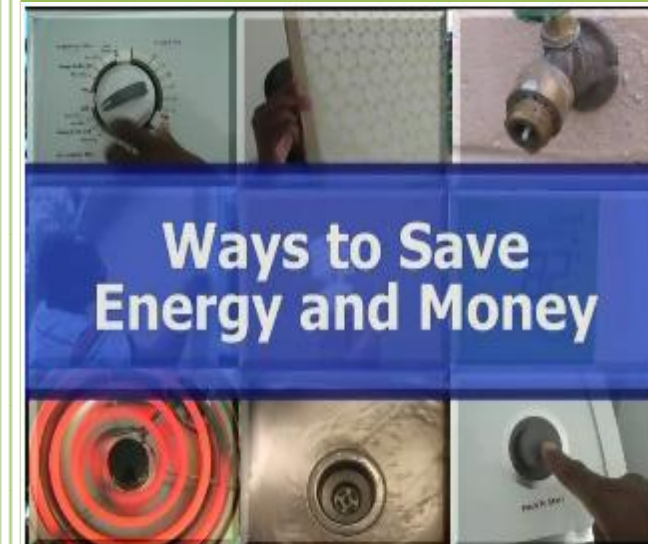
- Weather can impact on your energy bill.
  - When the weather is hot, if you leave your thermostat the same while the outside temperature rises, your A/C will run longer, increasing energy usage.
  - When the weather is cold, even though your heater may not be on all the time, heating is two to three times more expensive than cooling, especially if you use heat strips.
- The number of people in the home also impacts the bill. House guests, including visitors or kids home from school, can use a lot more electricity and water - more showers, more laundry, more cooking, etc.

## Summary

- You'll be surprised at how much you can save by making a few changes at home.
- By following just a few of the simple tips found in this presentation, you can make your home more comfortable and energy efficient - while you save money.
- Some of the tips are simple to do. Others require more effort and may require some investment, but all will contribute to lowering your energy bottom line.
- It doesn't have to mean big changes to your lifestyle – just a bit more attention to the little things that can add up to lots of energy waste.
- **For more information, contact your utility for a home energy survey, or see if they provide an online survey. You'll learn there's a lot more you can do to control your energy use.**



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# Ways to Save Energy and Money

All of us use energy every day. The choices we make about how we use energy impact our environment and our lives. These tips can save you money and time while making your home more comfortable for all.

**If you're like most people, you want to save money on your utility bill.** While there are some factors that impact your energy bill that you cannot control, you have more control over your bill than you think!

There are many things we can do to use less energy and use it more wisely. Simple energy conservation measures can lower your utility bills while increasing the comfort of your home.

This brochure provides some easy low-cost (orange) and no-cost (green) ways that may make a big difference in your monthly bill.

## Air Conditioning and Heating

- **Air conditioning is typically about half of your home energy use - and your biggest opportunity for savings**
- A/C thermostat settings are key to your savings
  - Use 78 degrees in summer, 68 in winter
  - Save about 5% on your air conditioning costs for each degree you adjust your thermostat up or down
- Set thermostat on "auto" so the fan isn't running constantly
- When leaving the house for an hour or more, set the thermostat up or down 5 degrees
- Clean or replace your air conditioner filter every month to promote a cleaner, healthier environment, improve your unit's efficiency and extend the life of your air handler.

- **Air conditioning is "a matter of degrees" - the less the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall bill will be.**

## Room Air Conditioning Units

- **Efficiency of room a/c units has improved over greatly in recent years but there are still ways to lower your bills.**
- Set your room a/c to the lowest fan speed and temperature that will keep you cool
- Turn it off whenever you leave the house
- Close the door to contain cooling in the room
- Make sure the "fresh air" vent on the room a/c is closed so you don't cool outside air
- Gently clean coils with a brush, but take care not to bend the coils
- Seal gaps and prevent leaks around the unit with weather stripping or other products
- When purchasing a new room air conditioner, seek a unit with an SEER rating of 10 or 11.
- Select a unit with a filter that slides out easily and clean or change it monthly

## More Air Conditioning Tips

- Use a ceiling or table fan to feel cooler - a fan can make you feel 3-5 degrees cooler and costs pennies to run
- Remember, fans don't cool rooms, they cool people, so turn fans off in an empty room
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## More Air Conditioning Tips

- Remember, fans don't cool rooms, they cool people, so turn fans off in an empty room
- Use caulk, spray foam or weather stripping to seal any gaps around the home – it helps reduce air flow into or out of your home
- Exterior window treatments such as window film or solar shades are the best ways to keep the heat out
- Ceiling insulation is a cost-effective energy efficiency option to reduce heat loss in the winter and heat gains in the summer while making your home more comfortable
- **Contact your utility about incentives for ceiling insulation**

## Laundry

- Wash clothes in cold water when possible – using cold water may save \$10 a month
- Wash and dry only when you have full loads, but don't overload
- Presoak or use the soak cycle when washing heavily-soiled items to avoid two washings
- When possible, dry similar types of fabrics together, like putting towels in one load
- Use a lower dryer temperature for material types when available
- Clean the dryer lint trap before every load to improve air flow
- Clogged vent adds to drying time and energy use, so keep the outside exhaust vent clean
- Seal the area around the dryer vent to reduce home heating and cooling loss

## In The Kitchen

- Keep your oven and burners clean - a clean oven is more efficient
- Minimize or eliminate preheating, especially if the food requires more than one hour of oven cooking time
- Turn off the electric range 2 to 3 minutes before the task is done - allow the residual heat to finish the job
- Use the broiler to use less energy and avoid the need to preheat
- Use the right sized pot on stove burners - a 6-inch pot on an 8-inch burner wastes over 40% of the burner's heat – and cover pots and pans to keep heat in
- Double your recipe - and freeze half for later after the food has cooled - reheating uses less energy
- If you have a microwave or toaster oven, use it – it's about 66% more efficient than a conventional oven and adds less heat to your kitchen, reducing cooling costs
- **Cook efficiently to avoid heating up the house, thereby minimizing air conditioning usage.**

**There are so many things you can do to save on your energy bill each month. These are just a few tips that might help.**

**Take control of your energy bill now!**