



Energy Saving Tips

With winter just around the corner, here are some energy saving tips that may help you save money. Some are very simple things you can do at no cost to improve efficiencies of your home, while other items may require some cost or investment.

No Cost:

- ◆ Set water heaters to 120°. The heater will operate less often making it safer for you and your family.
- ◆ Open drapes on south-facing windows when it's sunny. At night, close drapes to retain heat. During the day, keep drapes closed to provide insulation where windows receive no direct sunlight. Save up to \$100 per year.
- ◆ Use cold water when washing clothes. Six loads in hot water costs about \$9.90, while six loads in cold water costs 90¢.
- ◆ Set your thermostat at 68° so it operates less and costs you less. 68° is great!
- ◆ Keep your fireplace damper shut when not in use. This can prevent up to 5% heat loss.
- ◆ Contact your local energy provider about special offers, incentives or rebates they may have available for improving your home's energy efficiency on items such as insulation, furnaces, windows, fixtures and more. Often, they also have tools to help analyze your energy consumption and compare it to homes in the area.

Low Cost:

- ◆ Replace the furnace filter regularly. Replace it monthly during the heating season to reduce heating costs by up to 5% unless it's a high-efficiency filter designed to last several months.
- ◆ Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping, and save as much as 10%.
- ◆ Install low-flow showerheads, faucets or other plumbing fixtures to reduce water consumption by up to 10% or more. There may also be rebates on these products through the manufacturer or utility companies.
- ◆ Change to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. They cost a little more, but you can save about \$50 over the life of just one bulb.

Investment:

- ◆ Weatherize and insulate older homes and save up to 20% on heating/cooling costs. Seal holes to the outside by weather-stripping doors and sealing windows and gaps along the home's foundation. It's easy and most cost-effective to add insulation in the attic.
- ◆ Purchase ENERGY STAR® appliances. Items like refrigerators, washers, and computers have two price tags: purchase price and lifetime energy cost. Save up to 20% of household energy use with these appliances.
- ◆ If you're in the market for a new home, consider buying an ENERGY STAR® home. They are at least 15% more energy efficient than standard homes and provide increased comfort, healthier indoor air, more durability and fewer maintenance costs and concerns.

Put some green back in your bank this winter.

