

40 Energy Efficiency Tips

Save energy and money with
these energy efficiency tips



Do a little, save a lot. Everything you do, from flipping a switch to changing your lights, can add up to big savings. Here are some top tips for saving money.



TOP TEN TIPS

1. **Replace light bulbs with light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs**, especially ones that burn more than one hour per day.
2. **Seal from the inside.** Air sealing is an inexpensive way to lower energy costs and improve comfort. Seal gaps and holes in walls, floors, and ceilings with caulk or foam sealant. Seal cracks around windows and where wires and pipes pass through outside walls.
3. **Plug electronic devices into power strips** to turn off during vacations or long periods without use. Smart power strips make it an easy task to save money. These can include cable boxes, printers and TVs.
4. **Close shades and drapes during the day** to help keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
5. **Change your central HVAC system filter** when dirty. Dirty filters can impact your home comfort and increase your electricity bill because dirty equipment works harder.
6. **Change your thermostat temperature.** A one degree increase in heating setpoint or reduction in cooling setpoint can increase energy use by 3 – 5%.
7. **Have your duct work checked for leaks.** Leaks at the return, air handler and supply can be a major source of high bills. Mobile homes should check at the grill, cross-over duct and down flow air handler, for leaks.
8. **Set both the upper and lower water heater thermostats no higher than 120° F.**
9. **Minimize the use of an electric space heater**, except for limited or temporary spot heating. A space heater can cost more than \$100 per month to operate. Turn space heaters off when leaving the room and keep away from flammables.
10. **Ensure refrigerator door seals are tight and eliminate unnecessary refrigerators.**

PLUG LOADS

11. Turn off electronics when not in use. This includes computers and monitors, large-screen TVs and gaming consoles.
12. Request an ENERGY STAR® set-top box from cable or satellite provider.
13. Unplug battery chargers and small appliances with digital panels when not needed.

WATER HEATERS

14. Determine the size of tank water heater you need by the size of your family.
15. Do not install electric, on-demand water heaters.
16. Drain 1 - 2 gallons from the bottom of your water heater each year to reduce sediment buildup and improve function.
17. Insulate exposed hot water lines.
18. Check your water heater's elements if the amount of hot water available is less than usual.

HVAC

19. Run ceiling paddle fans on medium, blowing down in summer and paddle fans on low, blowing up in winter, but only if there are people in the room.
20. Insulate electric wall outlets and wall switches with foam pads.
21. Ensure your attic access door closes tightly and is insulated.
22. Make sure insulation in your attic does not block soffit vents.
23. Do not close off unused rooms that are conditioned by forced-air systems. Do not close supply air registers.
24. Keep fireplace dampers closed unless a fire is burning.
25. Have your HVAC system serviced once per year by a NATE-certified technician.



OUTSIDE

26. Ensure your outdoor heat pump/air conditioning unit is kept clean, free of debris and shrubs that hinder performance.
27. Use a timer for sprinkler systems.
28. Turn off pool pumps and heaters when not needed. Lower the temperature of your hot tub when not using.

KITCHEN

29. Don't leave refrigerator or freezer doors open for very long.
30. Use the microwave for cooking when possible. It uses less energy than an electric oven.
31. Use a slow-cooker instead of simmering foods on the stove.
32. Keep your freezer full.
33. Clean the refrigerator coils annually.
34. Set the refrigerator temperature to between 35° - 38° F and freezer temperature to 0° F.

LAUNDRY

35. Wash clothes in cold water. Use hot water only for very dirty loads.
36. Only do full laundry loads. If you must do smaller loads, adjust the water level in the washing machine to match the load size, especially when using hot water.
37. Make sure your dryer's outdoor exhaust door is not blocked or clogged.
38. Minimize clothes drying time; use an auto-moisture sensor on the dryer if available.
39. In hot weather, avoid running the dryer during the heat of the day.
40. Dry consecutive loads to harvest heat remaining in the dryer from the last load.

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