

Energy Saving Checklist

Saving money is a top priority for many people. One way to save money is to lower your use of electricity. Start saving money as you start saving energy with our helpful checklist filled with cool ideas!

Summer Energy Tips

- Keep blinds, shades, and drapes closed during the hottest part of the day.
- Make sure to clean or replace your air conditioning filter each month (or when dirty).
- Trim bushes or plants near the outdoor air conditioning unit so air can circulate.
- Use ceiling fans to help keep cool air circulating around the room.
- Close all windows while your air conditioner is on.
- Make sure you get the correct size air conditioner for the space to be cooled.
- If you have a central air conditioner, set it at about 76 degrees during the day if no one will be home. If you have a window unit, use a timer to turn it on just before you arrive home.

Winter Energy Tips

- Make sure you keep the thermostat at the lowest temperature that is comfortable; every degree over 70 uses 3% more heating fuel.
- Cover windows with plastic to keep hot air from escaping the room.
- Put weather stripping on doors and insulators under outlet covers.
- Don't let a furnace pilot light burn all summer. If your furnace has a standing pilot light, have it replaced with an intermittent ignition device, and then it will use fuel only when necessary.
- Don't heat unoccupied rooms- close the vents and shut the door.

Around The House

★Laundry

- Use warm water to clean dirty clothes (save hot water for hard stains), and cold water for slightly dirty clothes. Rinse with cold water instead of hot.
- Make sure you fill up the washing machine with each load (saves water and energy).
- Clean the washer and dryer's lint filters after each load. Once a month, clean lint filter with hot soapy water (film builds up that can be a fire hazard).
- If your dryer has a setting to stop when clothes are dry, make sure you use it; over-drying wastes energy and damages clothes.

★Kitchen

- Use your microwave whenever possible, it uses about 70%-80% less electricity than your oven.
- Cooking in the oven uses less energy than cooking on surface burners.
- When preparing meals, prepare foods that can be cooked together in the oven at the same temperature.
- Limit opening the oven door to check on your meals; the oven temperature can lower by 25 degrees each time you open the door.
- Dirty, dull pans absorb heat instead of reflecting it, so use shiny reflective pans.
- Remember to turn off your oven as soon as you're done cooking.
- Double-check to make sure your refrigerator door is closed all the way.
- Try to keep your freezer as full as possible to increase its capacity to cool.
- Vacuum or brush your refrigerator's condenser coils (located in back of your refrigerator) annually so it doesn't have to overwork to keep items cool.

★Hot Water & Light Bulbs

- Lower your hot water heater to about 110 degrees (130 degrees if you have a dishwasher).
- Use cool water to rinse dishes in the dishwasher and open door to let dishes air dry instead of using the drying cycle.
- When hand-washing dishes, make sure to turn water off while you're scrubbing a group of dishes, then rinse them all at once.
- Wrap water heater with an insulation blanket and pipes with insulation wraps.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Use lower wattage and energy-saving bulbs wherever possible (Compact florescent light bulbs use at least two-thirds less energy than standard bulbs to provide the same amount of light, and they last up to 10 times longer. Compact florescent light bulbs also generate 70 percent less heat, so they are safer to operate and can also reduce energy costs).

This information has been prepared by Lakes Publishing, LLC. The information provided is educational in nature and is not intended to be construed as, legal, tax or investment advice and does not necessarily represent the views of the presenting party. Specific state laws relevant to a particular situation may affect the applicability, accuracy or completeness of this information. Material presented is believed to be from reliable sources, but its accuracy is not guaranteed. If additional information is needed, the reader is advised to seek professional services.