



Energy Saving Tips

Efficiency saves money. While there is little we can do to control the unpredictable world of fuel prices, we can control what happens in our own home. Hundreds of dollars can be saved each year by following a few simple tips:

1. Inspect and tune-up your residential heating system regularly. A heating system that runs well is more efficient and will save you money.
2. Invest in a furnace thermostat timer that lowers your home's temperature when you are not at home. You can cut annual heating bills by as much as 10 percent per year by turning your thermostat back 10-15% for eight hours each day.
3. Protect against drafts by caulking and weather-stripping around windows, doors, and other openings such as ducts, fans, and vents.
4. Install flow-restricting showerheads: You can reduce hot water usage by up to 50% without affecting shower pressure.
5. Consider switching to a propane water heater. Over time, propane water heaters can cost up to one-third less to operate and they recover hot water twice as quickly as electric water heaters.
6. Change your furnace filter monthly. Clean filters will increase efficiency.
7. Run washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers with a full load.
8. Turn down your water heater from the standard 120 degrees to 115 degrees. You could save more than 10% on your water heating bill.
9. Increase your water heater's efficiency by draining it every six months to remove mineral deposits and sediment.
10. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving. This can save up to 9 gallons of water each morning.
11. Fix any dripping faucets. One dripping faucet can waste 350 gallons of water or more in just one month.
12. Cook with gas. A gas range can cost significantly less to use than an electric range.
13. Check the seal on your oven door. Gaps or tears in the seal let heat escape, wasting energy.
14. Always cook with lids on your cookware. Boiling water without a lid can use three times as much energy as with a lid.
15. Don't lay foil on the oven racks. Food cooks quicker and more efficiently in ovens when air can circulate freely.
16. Use kitchen, bath, and other ventilating fans wisely. In just 60 minutes these fans can pull out a houseful of warmed or cooled air. Turn fans off as soon as they have done the job.