

Energy & Water Saving Tips

Electronics & Appliances



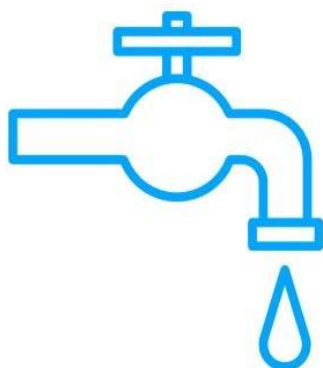
- Plug appliances, chargers, printers, games, computer equipment, and all other electronics into power strips, and turn the power strips off when not in use.
- Keep your refrigerator $\frac{3}{4}$ full of food or water in bottles. A full fridge/freezer uses less energy to keep things cool.
- After showering, let hair air-dry before blow-drying.
- If you don't have a power strip, unplug appliances when not in use. Even when turned off, appliances still consume a considerable amount of energy.

Air Flow

- Keep furniture away from air vents. Placing furniture over heating and cooling registers makes your heating systems and air conditioner work harder.
- Clean or change filters regularly. A dirty furnace or A/C filter will slow down air flow and use more energy.
- Cover air conditioner vents in winter. Sealing air leaks is the first and most important step to home comfort.
- Seal windows and door drafts. Excess air leakage can increase heating and cooling bills by 30%.



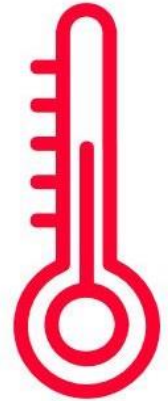
Water



- Washing clothes in cold water prevents shrinkage, fading AND saves energy.
- Wash only full loads in your washing machine, and use the "water-saving" feature if your machine has one.
- Any shower less than 25 min is more efficient than taking a bath.
- Don't let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth. Rinse brush and razors with short bursts of water.
- When hand-washing dishes, partially fill sink to clean and then rinse using the spray attachment on your tap.

Heating & Cooling

- Use a programmable, or even better, a Smart (Ecobee, NEST, etc.) Thermostat to heat/cool your home.
- Remember to turn down the heat at least 15 minutes before bedtime or when you leave your home.
- Remember to turn your air conditioner off or to a higher temperature 15 minutes before leaving your home.
- If not HOT, use a room fan instead of an air conditioner.



Cooking



- Don't preheat oven; turn off the oven 5 minutes before item is cooked.
- When possible, cook with small appliances such as a crock pot, microwave, toaster, etc.
- Once boiling or desired cooking temperature is reached, lower the heat.
- Put lids on cooking pots and use heavy pans or iron skillet to retain heat

Lighting

- Remember to turn lights off when you leave the room, or install motion-sensor lighting.
- Replace standard incandescent and CFL bulbs with LED bulbs – these newer bulbs last up to 25X longer, and use as little as 1/10th of the electricity.
- Adjust your curtains and blinds to let sunlight in or out, depending on the desired room temperature and light.

