

TOP 10 Energy Saving Tips

- 1. TURN OUT THE LIGHTS!** Like your parents always said, turn off the lights in unoccupied rooms. Replace your incandescent bulbs with equivalent compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs). CFLs last longer and use 75 percent less energy. LED-based lights are even more efficient.
- 2. USE A POWER STRIP WITH A TIMER.** Plug appliances and electronics into a power strip on a timer so you can turn them all off at once. And, make sure those electronics and appliances are Energy Star-rated.
- 3. UPGRADE YOUR OLD REFRIGERATOR.** A refrigerator purchased in 1975 uses four times more power than a new Energy Star-rated model.
- 4. SCHEDULE AN ENERGY AUDIT.** Perform an online energy audit or have an energy auditor survey your home. Simple, inexpensive improvements often provide big savings.
- 5. BUY A SWEATER.** Wear it and keep your thermostat set to a lower temperature. Every degree of temperature reduction can save 5 percent on heating costs. Consider purchasing a programmable thermostat to lower temperatures automatically while you are away from home.
- 6. REGULARLY CLEAN OR REPLACE THE HEATING/COOLING SYSTEM FILTER.** Dirty filters reduce required air flow and make the equipment work harder. A clean filter can help save 5 percent in heating costs. The same is true for the lint trap on your clothes dryer.
- 7. TAKE A SHOWER.** A quick shower using a low-flow showerhead will use only half the water required for a typical bath.
- 8. WRAP THAT WATER HEATER.** You can save up to 10 percent of the energy required to operate an electric water heater by installing a tank insulating blanket (available at home improvement stores). Insulate the water pipes exiting your water heater to further reduce energy loss.
- 9. WASH CLOTHES IN COLD WATER.** Up to 80 percent of the energy used by a washing machine is from heating the water it uses. Washing in cold or warm water saves energy. Consider the purchase of a front-loading model that uses half the water of a conventional top-loading washer. For drying, use a clothesline instead of a dryer.
- 10. SCALE BACK APPLIANCES.** Using small appliances such as toaster ovens uses less energy than their larger counterparts. Only run dishwashers when there is a full load, and select the energy-saving cycle.