

ENERGY SAVING TIPS



UNPLUG YOUR APPLIANCES

Many appliances that use electricity continue to use a small amount of power even when they are turned off. 75% of the average homes electricity that is used to power home appliances is consumed while products are turned off. Appliances such as VCRs, televisions, stereos, computers, and kitchen appliances are the main users of this “phantom energy”. To reduce the amount of “phantom energy” you are using unplug appliances when not in use.

LOOK FOR ENERGY STAR AND ENERGY GUIDE LABELS

When shopping for appliances always look for the ENERGY STAR and EnergyGuide labels on the product. The ENERGY STAR label is the government's seal of energy efficiency and the EnergyGuide label estimates an appliance's energy consumption.

USE YOUR WASHER AND DRYER EFFECTIVELY

When washing clothes use the appropriate water level and wash heavier fabrics separate from light-weight fabrics. Clean your dryers lint filter after every use and use your dryers moisture sensor to prevent over drying. To conserve the most energy consider air drying your cloths on a drying rack or clothes line.

AIR DRY YOUR DISHES

Dishwashers are still a great way to wash your dishes and in most cases can use less energy than washing your dishes by hand using a constant flow of hot water. The dishwashing cycle that uses the most energy is the drying cycle. To reduce the amount of energy used by your dishwasher simply stop it before the drying cycle and let the dishes air dry.

USE DAYLIGHT TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

During the winter months open the draperies and shades to your south facing windows to allow sunlight to warm your home. During the summer months close the draperies and shades on your south facing windows to prevent solar gain.

PROPERLY INSULATE YOUR HOME

Make sure you have adequate insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl-spaces. Weatherize your home by caulking and weather-stripping any doors and windows that leak air. Install exterior or interior storm windows if needed as storm windows can reduce heat loss through the windows by 25% to 50%. Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. The plastic must be sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

USE A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT

Install a programmable thermostat that can adjust the temperature according to your schedule. This technique has proven to cut heating/cooling costs drastically.

GIVE YOUR HOME COMPUTER A BREAK

Make sure power management is activated on your computer. It is a better option to use your computers automatic sleep mode or turn your computer off rather than using a screensaver. More importantly, turn off your computer and monitor when not in use. Plug your computer and its accessories into a power strip that can be turned off after use.