



# Energy Efficiency For Your Home or Apartment

## A step-by-step guide to saving energy

### Using energy efficiently pays off

The ability to lower your energy bills is in your hands. The following tips and advice can help you use energy wisely.

#### In the kitchen

Your refrigerator uses more energy than any other electric appliance:

- ▶ Set the refrigerator between 36–38°F and the freezer between 0–5°F (setting it 10°F lower than necessary can use 25% more electricity).
- ▶ Consider a new, more efficient model.

#### To use less energy when cooking:

- ▶ Use microwaves, toaster ovens or crockpots whenever possible.
- ▶ Cook with lids on your pans.
- ▶ If your gas burners have a continuous yellow flame, gas is not burning efficiently.
- ▶ Use a separate oven thermometer to see if your oven has strayed from its temperature settings. If it has, use the thermometer when baking and roasting.
- ▶ Check the seal on the stove door for cracks or tears.

#### Use energy-saving dishwasher features:

- ▶ Energy/water-saving wash cycles can save \$5–15 per year.



- ▶ A no-heat air dry feature helps your dishwasher use 15–50% less energy.
- ▶ Turn the dishwasher off after the final rinse cycle and air dry dishes.
- ▶ Operate the dishwasher only when full.

#### In the basement

##### Set your hot water heater at 120°F:

- ▶ Any hotter wastes energy and could be a burn hazard.

##### Insulate your hot water tank and pipes:

- ▶ Insulating hot water pipes keeps water hotter and reduces heat

loss. For older models, keep heat in by wrapping the tank in a special blanket available at hardware stores. Do not blanket newer, insulated models.

- ▶ Do not cover hot water tank controls, relief valve, panel to burner, the top or any ventilation pipe.

#### Wash and dry clothes for less money:

- ▶ Use cold water for washing; otherwise, about 90% of your laundry energy use goes into heating the water.
- ▶ Dry clothes in consecutive loads to take advantage of the heat already generated.
- ▶ Hang clothes outside and use free energy from the sun.

#### In the bath

##### Reducing hot water use will reduce energy costs:

- ▶ Install a low-flow showerhead and use up to 50% less water.
- ▶ When shaving, partially fill the basin with water rather than letting it go down the drain.
- ▶ Showers usually require less water than a bath.

#### Throughout your home

##### Save on lighting costs:

- ▶ Turn a light off when you're not using it.

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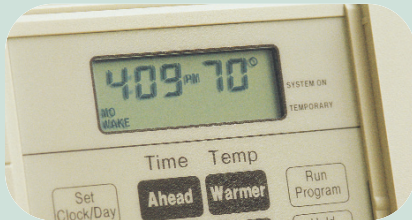
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- ▶ Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents. They last 10 times longer and can cut lighting costs by up to 75%.
- ▶ Use brighter bulbs in areas where you do close-up work, and less bright light in other areas.
- ▶ Move desks, reading chairs and workbenches closer to windows...sunlight's free!
- ▶ Replace outdoor floodlights with halogen lamps; use motion detectors or timers.

#### Turn the thermostat down:

- ▶ In winter, set the thermostat 2–4°F below what you used to.



- ▶ Turn the thermostat down or use a programmable thermostat to lower the temperature when you leave the house for two hours or more and when you go to bed at night.
- ▶ Open drapes and capture the warmth of the sun during the day.
- ▶ Close drapes to keep heat in at night.

#### Keep cold air out:

- ▶ Seal holes and cracks with caulk.
- ▶ Caulk windows and weatherstrip around door frames.
- ▶ Shut off heat to unused rooms and close the fireplace damper.
- ▶ Remove air conditioning window units or fill cracks and gaps with weatherstripping.

#### Use space heaters efficiently and safely:

- ▶ Place heaters only in occupied rooms.

- ▶ Keep at least three feet between furniture and the heater. Check electric space heaters for frayed cords and always unplug electric space heaters when not in use.

#### Manage central air use:

- ▶ Set the unit 8–10°F below the outside temperature.
- ▶ Keep windows closed when air conditioner is on.
- ▶ Fans are the least expensive cooling units you can use. Use alone or in conjunction with an air conditioner (use a higher temperature setting on the air conditioner unit in this case).

#### Cover waterbeds, hot tubs, spas and pools:

- ▶ Save energy by covering your waterbed with a comforter or quilt every day.
- ▶ Use tight-fitting, insulated cover for hot tubs and spas when not in use.
- ▶ Keep the pool heater setting as low as possible while maintaining comfort levels.
- ▶ Check that the pool pump filter is clean and the pump is well lubricated and in good working order.

#### Use dehumidifiers and air filters/purifiers efficiently:

- ▶ Operate dehumidifiers in defined spaces rather than big, open areas.
- ▶ Check that air purifiers have clean filters and are in good working order.

#### While you're away

#### Use these tips to make sure you don't return to high-energy bills after a vacation:

- ▶ Turn down the hot water tank setting as low as possible.
- ▶ When practical, completely empty the refrigerator and set the temperature control to the lowest possible setting.

- ▶ If leaving lights on, use a timer.
- ▶ Unplug your waterbed or lower the temperature setting 10°F and cover it with an extra blanket.
- ▶ Pull the plug on televisions – please be aware that plasma and LCD equipment use much more electricity than older models during use – VCRs, computers, clocks, cordless phones, cell phone chargers and stereos.

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