



## ***31 things customers can do to save energy at home***

### **Appliances**

- Wash your clothes in cooler water. Replace your clothes washer with an ENERGY STAR labeled model when it is time.
- Choose the air-dry setting on your dishwasher instead of the heat-dry setting. If there is no air-dry setting, turn the dishwasher off after its final rinse and open the door to dry dishes without using extra electricity.
- Set your water heater to the normal setting or 120 degrees, unless the owner's manual for your dishwasher requires a higher setting. Insulate the efficient water heater and hot water pipes with approved insulation materials;
- Clean refrigerator coils at least twice a year. If your refrigerator is 10 years or older, replace it with an ENERGY STAR qualified model.
- Use the self-cleaning oven feature only when necessary. Start the self-cleaning cycle immediately after the oven is used to take advantage of preexisting heat.
- Wash in cold water. Use hot water only for very dirty clothes. Between 80 and 85 percent of the energy used to wash clothes comes from heating the water.

### **Lighting**

- Replace incandescent light bulbs with comparable energy efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Use ENERGY STAR labeled lighting products.
- Replace halogen torchiere lamps with safer, more efficiency 55 to 75 watt ENERGY STAR torchiere lamps. ENERGY STAR lamps reach temperatures of 100 to 200 degrees F; halogen lamps reach temperatures of up to 1,100 degrees F, hot enough to fry an egg in 30 seconds.
- Buy fixtures that have a dimmer. Dimmers can be used with incandescent lights, including low-voltage systems, and the new screw-based dimmable fluorescent bulbs.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with comparable "lumen output" energy efficient CFLs. For example, replace 100 watt incandescent bulb with a CFL of at least 1600 lumen.
- Use energy-saving LED (light emitting diode) holiday light strands that use about 99% less energy than larger, traditional holiday lights and last up to 100,000 hours.

### **Cooling/Heating**

- Consider installing a whole-house evaporative cooler if you live in dry climate because an evaporative cooler uses as much as 75% less electricity than an air conditioner, saving approximately \$150 a year.
- Cooling and heating account for almost half of the average family's energy bill. Inspect, clean, or change air filters once a month to keep costs down.
- To improve your ducts, make sure to have your contractor:
  - Identify any leaks with diagnostic equipment;
  - Seal your ducts with mastic, metal-backed tape, or aerosol sealant;
  - Test airflow after ducts are sealed;
  - Insulate your ducts where it counts to keep the air at its desired temperature as it moved through the system.
  - Conduct a combustion safety test after ducts are sealed to be sure all gas or oil-burning appliances are working properly.
- Insulate ductwork and connectors to R-6 or higher; inspect entire length of duct for cracks and holds, check for poor connections and make sure duct ties are securely fastened because ductwork can a major cause of heat loss.
- Replace your central air conditioning and heating system if it is more than ten years old. Look for the ENERGY STAR label when you buy.



- In the winter, reverse your ceiling fan motor so that the blades push air up toward the ceiling, where hot air normally rises. The fan will drive the warm air back down around the edges of the room, which can result in more even heating.
- Ensure that your whole system (i.e., furnace, heat pump, air conditioner, and heating and cooling) is energy efficient; leaky ducts can decrease the overall energy efficiency of your heating and cooling system.
- Use a programmable thermostat to consistently control your home's temperature.

### **Electronics**

- Buy ENERGY STAR labeled home electronics that power down to require only a few watts when turned off, because TVs, VCRs, DVD players, and cable boxes consume energy even while switched off in order to keep display clocks lit and memory chips and remote controls working.

### **Energy Cost**

- Switch to energy-efficient appliances, equipment and lighting, which can cut the average household energy bill by one-third to one-half.

### **Insulation**

- Insulate your attic, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl spaces. Seal attic air ducts, floor holes and bypasses. Appropriate insulation can reduce your heating costs by 30%.
- Add weather stripping around windows and doors to reduce drafts. Use caulking to seal around ducts, plumbing and any other openings in walls, floors, and ceilings to reduce air leaks. Seal larger gaps that cannot be covered with caulk with expanding foam.

### **Water/Gas**

- Fix drippy, leaky faucets and toilets. Replace old faucet aerators. Consider water-saving faucet attachments. Also check for leaks in pipes, hoses, and couplings.
- Take showers vs. baths; take shorter showers vs. longer showers. Use a low-flow shower head to save energy and reduce water usage up to five gallons a minute.
- Turn off the water when you brush your teeth or shave.
- Rather than letting the water run, soak pots and pans while you scrape them clean.

### **Pool**

- Reduce the operating time of your pool filter to four hours or less in the winter. Cover the pool and do not operate the automatic pool-cleaning sweep. Set the timer to filter the pool before noon or after 6 pm.

### **Windows**

- Seal leaks around windows. Use foam gaskets to seal leaks around light switches and electrical outlets or on exterior walls.
- When changing out old windows, buy new high performance ones. Look for the NFRC label and choose a product with U-factor of 0.40 or less and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient of 0.40 or less and Visible Light Transmittance of 0.60 or higher.

### **New Home**

- If you're in the market for a new home, consider an ENERGY STAR New Home. Energy used in homes is responsible for 20% of the air pollution generated in the U. S. One ENERGY STAR New Home can keep 4,500 pounds of greenhouse gases out of our air each year.