

Simple Cost Saving Behaviors You and Your Family can take to save Energy and Money

Turn down your thermostat by 1°- During the winter you can save as much as 2-5% of the energy your furnace uses by lowering your thermostat by 1°F (If its set between 65° and 72°F) In the summer this is reversed. You can save 3-5% of the energy used by your air conditioner by simply raising the thermostat 1°F

A simple tune-up of your furnace can increase your furnaces efficiency by as much as 5%-It is estimated that as much as 31% of a typical households energy use goes to heat. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy reports that the “Single most important thing people can do to save energy is make sure their furnaces are running efficiently”.

Use ceiling fans in the winter too- By running your ceiling fan in “reverse” you can push the warm air trapped by the ceiling down. Some rooms in your house can be 15°F warmer at the ceiling than the floor!

Turn off your lights, use daylight, or use CFLS- Lighting accounts for 10% of all electricity consumed in the US. Simple things you can do include removing the dust from a light bulb or light fixture to make it brighter, and use daylight- opening curtains during the day will save energy and direct sunlight is 100 times brighter than the light from a bright reading lamp. One CFL can save as much as \$25 over the life of the bulb compared to an incandescent bulb.

Use cold water to wash and rinse cycles to clean your clothes- Clothes washers and dryers can account for as much as 25% of the energy you use at home and up to 90% of all electricity used in washing your clothes is from heating up the water. Use cold waster to wash and rinse to save energy.

Use your dishwasher when all the way full- Although it does take a significant amount of energy to run a dishwasher, studies have shown that a load of dishes cleaned with a dishwasher requires 37% less water than washing dishes by hand, if you leave the water running.

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