

Be Energy Efficient

Home Energy Saving Tips

No-cost energy savings actions

- Make sure vents are not blocked by furniture or drapes.
- Turn off lights not being used.
- Turn down the temperature on the water heater to 115 degrees.
- Let sunlight into your home during the winter and keep it out in the summer.
- Wear extra layers of clothing or use blankets in the winter.
- Keep refrigerator base clean, take guard off and clean dirt and debris from underneath refrigerator.
- Clear area in freezer around freezer fan.
- Use cold water when washing clothes.
- Check your meter weekly to monitor consumption and plan for billing amount.
- Consider setting the thermostat to a lower temperature in winter and a higher temperature in the summer.

Important: Seniors and people with special medical needs should check with their doctors before changing their normal home temperatures or turning off air conditioning or heating units.

Low-cost energy savings actions

- Replace furnace filter monthly when dirty.
- Caulk around windows and doors.
- Replace conventional light bulbs with efficient light bulbs.
- Install an energy efficient thermostat.
- Replace shower head with a low-flow shower head.
- Install switch and outlet gaskets/foam inserts on outer walls.
- Install plastic on windows.
- Place foam pipe wrap around warm water pipes (*Keep wrap 12 inches away from heater top*).
- Install a water heater jacket. (*Do not install if heater has foam insulation*).
- Insulate heating ducts that travel through unheated areas of your home.
- Seal up areas around plumbing penetrations on outer walls.
- Have your furnace and air conditioner inspected and tuned up before heating and cooling seasons
- Fill gaps around the chimney.

Long-term energy savings actions

- Add insulation in attic and have cellulose blown into walls that are not insulated (Consult a licensed electrician if wiring does not meet current standards).
- Replace old appliances with ENERGY STAR® appliances.
- Install ENERGY STAR® windows and doors.
- Install high efficiency furnace or heat pump and high efficiency air conditioner.
- Install more cold air returns if house needs increased air circulation to increase furnace efficiency.
- Install heating and/or cooling appliance(s) with an energy-efficient model. Select an energy-efficient model by looking at the AFUE (annual fuel utilization efficiency) rating of 90 percent or greater for a heating system or the SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) rating, the higher the rating the more efficient the unit for a cooling system.

Top ways heat escapes a home

A home energy audit will pinpoint areas where air could escape.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, about 31% of heat escapes through openings in your ceilings, walls, and floors. Heat can also escape from plumbing penetrations, fireplaces, doors, windows and ducts.

What if I can't pay my bill?

If faced with a bill you can't pay in full, DO NOT IGNORE IT:

- Contact your utility company.
- Apply for energy assistance.
- Enter into a payment agreement with the utility company.
- Consider enrolling in an average or budget-billing plan which allows customers to spread annual energy costs over a 12-month period. Budget billing amounts may be adjusted at various times during the 12-month period.

About Be Energy Efficient

"Be Energy Efficient" is an initiative of the Missouri Public Service Commission aimed at helping consumers remain in control of their energy bills. BEE is a collaborative effort supported by many organizations and utilities servicing the state of Missouri.



Missouri Public Service Commission
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