

Summer Home Energy Saving Tips

Living Spaces

- Add insulation and seal air leaks to help keep the cool air inside.
- Don't overload an electric circuit with high-wattage appliances. The normal limit for an electric circuit of 15 amps is 1600 watts. Overloaded circuits can blow fuses or trip circuit breakers as well as make any appliances on the circuit operate inefficiently.



Living Spaces

- Turn off lights when they are not needed. Consider replacing burned out light bulbs with new energy efficient bulbs.
- Turn off computers, monitors, printers and televisions during periods of non-use.
- Close drapes, shades and blinds during the day to keep the sunlight from heating up your home.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows that leak air.

Kitchen/Laundry Room

- Vacuum the coils of your refrigerator and check for frost buildup in refrigerators and freezers which causes an appliance to work harder.
- Shift the use of heat-producing and major appliances such as ovens, dishwashers, clothes dryers and irons from mid-day to early in the morning or later at night when possible.
- Try to wash full loads in the dishwasher, and use the short cycle. Except for very dirty dishes, short cycles work just as well as longer ones.
- Use your microwave, toaster oven, slow cooker, broiler oven or other energy saving appliances for cooking food. They use half the energy of a regular oven and keep your kitchen cooler.
- Turn down the temperature on your water heater to 115 degrees.
- Cover pans when cooking on a stove top and use exhaust fans periodically, as required, to reduce indoor humidity.
- Avoid using extension cords with appliances because they cut the efficiency of the appliance.
- Wash clothes in cold water with a cold water detergent. Wash full loads of laundry for maximum efficiency.

Cooling System

- Don't move the thermostat up or down throughout the day as this will waste energy and money.
- Make sure furniture and draperies are not blocking cooling outlets. Blocked outlets restrict air circulation, overwork the cooling equipment and increase operating costs.
- Use ceiling fans to assist in cooling. In the summer, blades should rotate counter-clockwise when viewed from below.
- Consider using a programmable thermostat to raise the temperature when the home is unoccupied.
- Keep storm windows and doors in place to reduce the air conditioning load.
- Make sure your air conditioner filter is clean and replace filters as needed.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Savers Tips



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