

# 101 EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

## TOP TEN

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Here are the top ten tips that any good energy saver should do first.

1. Replace any light bulb, especially ones that are on more than one hour per day, with a light-emitting diode (LED) bulb.
2. Close shades and drapes during the day to help keep heat out in summer.
3. Plug electronic devices such as cable boxes, printers, and TVs into power strips to turn off during vacations or long periods without use.
4. Outside your home, caulk around all penetrations, including telephone, electrical, cable, gas, water spigots, dryer vents.
5. Change HVAC air filters monthly.
6. Use dishwasher's air-dry cycle instead of the heat-dry cycle to dry dishes.
7. Keep your garage door down. A warmer garage in the winter and cooler garage in the summer will save energy.
8. Set water heater temperature no higher than 120°F.
9. Make sure dryer vent hose is not kinked or clogged.
10. Ensure refrigerator door seals are tight.

## LIGHTING

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Traditional lighting can amount to 11% of your monthly energy use. Energy-saving light bulbs can slice lighting costs by 75%.

11. Replace outdoor lighting with its equivalent outdoor-rated LED bulb. LEDs work well in cold weather.
12. Use fixtures with electronic ballasts and T-8 32 Watt fluorescent lamps.
13. Use outdoor security lights with photocells and/or motion sensors.
14. Turn off unnecessary lighting.

# ELECTRONICS

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Other plug loads around the home can add up to be 8% to 15% of monthly use.

15. Turn computers and monitors off when not in use.
16. When buying a new computer, select an ENERGY STAR® model. Consider buying a laptop, as it uses less energy than a comparable desktop.
17. Turn large-screen TVs off completely when not in use.
18. Check for energy-saving settings on flat-panel TVs, like automatic brightness control and power-saving sleep mode.
19. Request an ENERGY STAR® set-top box from cable or satellite provider.
20. Turn off stereos and radios when not in use.
21. Enable auto power-down feature on gaming consoles.
22. If you don't unplug them, use energy-saving modes or automatic sleep functions on electronics.
23. Remember to turn off hair irons.
24. Make sure electric blankets are turned off when not in use.
25. Ensure all new appliances, electronics, and lights are ENERGY STAR® labeled.
26. Turn off pool pumps and heaters when not needed.
27. Verify livestock water tank heaters are off when not needed.
28. Make sure heat tape is off when not needed.
29. Unplug battery chargers when not needed.

# KITCHEN

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The kitchen, which includes appliance use and refrigeration, can amount to 15% - 20% of your monthly energy use.

30. Turn off coffeemakers when not in use.

31. Use refrigerator's anti-sweat feature only when necessary.

33. Clean refrigerator coils annually.

34. If it is not frost free, defrost refrigerator and freezer regularly to avoid ice buildup.

35. Set the refrigerator temperature to 34°F - 37°F and freezer temperature of 0°F - 5°F.

36. Unplug unused refrigerators and freezers. Recycle them if you do not need them.

37. Use microwave for cooking when possible.

38. When cooking on the range, use pot lids to help food cook faster.

39. If you are heating water on the stove, use hot tap water instead of cold.

40. Remember to use the kitchen exhaust fan when cooking. Turn it off afterwards.

41. Use a slow cooker instead of simmering foods on the stove.

42. If you are rinsing dirty dishes before putting them into the dishwasher, use cold water.

43. Use cold water for garbage disposal.

44. Only run dishwasher when fully loaded.

# WATER HEATING

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Water heating can amount to 12% of your annual energy use.

45. For households with 1 or 2 members, a setting of 115°F may work fine.
46. Install a water heater wrap, also known as a water heater blanket, according to manufacturer's instructions.
47. Drain 1-2 gallons from the bottom of the water heater each year to reduce sediment buildup.
48. When it's time to replace your water heater, install heat traps on hot- and cold-water lines.
49. Insulate exposed hot-water lines.
50. Limit shower times to 5-7 minutes.
51. Install water-saving shower heads.
52. Fix dripping faucets.
53. Don't let the water run while you are shaving or brushing your teeth.

# LAUNDRY

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Laundry can amount to 5% - 9% of your monthly energy use.

54. Wash clothes in cold water. Use hot water only for very dirty loads.

55. Only do full loads of laundry.

56. If you must do smaller loads, adjust the water level in the washing machine to match the size of the load, especially when using hot water.

57. Always use cold-water rinse.

58. Use bath towels at least twice before washing them.

59. Clean dryer's lint trap before each load.

60. Make sure the dryer's outdoor exhaust door is not blocked or clogged.

61. Verify dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the inside wall fitting.

62. Check that the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the dryer.

63. Minimize drying times by using an auto moisture sensor, if available.

64. Dry consecutive loads to harvest heat remaining in dryer from previous load.

65. In hot weather, avoid running the dryer during the heat of the day.

66. Consider using a "solar-powered" clothes dryer -- an old-fashioned clothesline.

# HEATING & A/C

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Heating & air conditioning are usually the largest loads in a home and are responsible for 40% - 50% of your annual energy costs.

67. Set thermostats at 78°F in summer, 68°F in winter.
68. Install a programmable thermostat to save even more.
69. Run ceiling paddle fans on medium, blowing down in summer, and paddle fans on low in winter, blowing upward.
70. Turn off ceiling fans when leaving the room. Fans cool people, not rooms.
71. When installing new air filters, make sure they are facing in the correct direction (look for arrow on the side edge of the filter).
72. When heating or cooling, keep windows shut and locked.
73. Insulate electric wall outlets and wall switches with foam pads.
74. Caulk along baseboards with a clear sealant.
75. Caulk around plumbing penetrations that come through the walls under bathroom and kitchen sinks.
76. Caulk electrical wire penetrations at the top of the interior walls in the attic.
77. Close shades and drapes at night to keep heat in during the winter.
78. Make sure drapes and shades are open during the day to catch free solar heat in winter.
79. Ensure attic access door closes tightly and is insulated.
80. Make sure insulation in the attic does not block soffit vents.
81. Do not close off unused rooms that are conditioned by forced-air systems.
82. Do not close supply air registers.
83. Check to be sure return air grills are not blocked by furniture or bookcases.
84. Ensure windows and doors are properly weatherstripped, and use door sweeps.
85. Make sure outside soffit vents are not blocked.
86. Do not use rooftop power ventilators for attic exhaust as they may draw conditioned air from your home.

87. Have your HVAC system serviced once a year by a NATE (North American Technician Excellence) certified technician.
88. Monitor your home's relative humidity in the summer. If it consistently stays 60% or higher, ask your HVAC technician about lowering the indoor fan speed on your central air conditioning unit.
89. Ensure window A/C units are weatherstripped. Remove the unit in the winter and close and lock the window.
90. Remove and clean window A/C filter monthly.
91. Keep "fresh air" vents closed on window A/C units.
92. Use heavy-duty clear sheets of plastic, sealed tightly, on the inside of windows during the winter to reduce the amount of cold air entering your home.
93. Minimize use of electric space heaters except for limited or temporary spot heating. Turn off space heaters when leaving the room.
94. Ensure your outdoor air conditioning/heat pump unit is kept clean and free of debris.
95. When using the fireplace, turn down the thermostat on your heating system.
96. When using the fireplace, open the outside air vent (if provided) or open the window nearest to the fireplace.
97. Keep fireplace dampers closed unless a fire is burning.
98. Ensure floor registers are not blocked by rugs, drapes, or furniture.
99. Caulk around storm windows and basement windows.
100. Turn off bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans 15 minutes after use or install 15-minute timers on bathroom ventilator fans.
101. Plant trees and shrubs to provide shade on the East, South, and West sides of your home. Evergreen trees and shrubs can provide a windbreak on the north side.