

Put your home on an energy diet

*How to save money
by making your house
energy-smart*

Housing Department

Caulk around wall, ceiling, and floor penetrations.

The biggest culprits are furnace exhaust vents penetrating the ceiling, water pipes going through walls and floors, and around kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans.

Install foam gaskets behind faceplates of electrical outlets and light switches.

Air leaks around outlets and light switches are common in exterior walls, but interior wall outlets can also let air escape up the walls and into the attic.

Weatherstrip around windows, doors, and air hatches.

Weatherstripping should be compressed when the door or window is shut. Also make sure door sweeps and thresholds are in good condition.

Seal duct joints with duct mastic, mastic tape, or butyl-aluminum tape.

All supply and return duct joints should be sealed to ensure proper air distribution. Ducts in unconditioned spaces (attics, garages, crawlspaces) should be insulated to a minimum of R6 after air sealing.

Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps.

Compact fluorescents save significantly on electricity cost and usually last six or seven years. T8 tubular fluorescents are another efficient way of lighting the home.

Install and use programmable thermostats.

These automatically reduce/increase temperatures in the heating/cooling season during the night and while people are away in the day time. Occupants can also temporarily override the settings when desired.

Lower the temperature of water heaters to 120 degrees.

Most households don't need water any hotter than 120 degrees. For each 10 F reduction in water temperature you can save between 3% - 5% in energy costs.

Insulate hot water pipes.

Domestic hot water lines should be insulated to prevent heat loss, and cold water should be insulated to reduce surface condensation problems.

Put an insulating jacket on your water heater.

A water heater tank that's warm to the touch needs additional insulation. Doing so can reduce standby heat losses by 25% - 45%. This will save you around 4% - 9% in water heating costs.

Install low-flow high pressure showerheads.

If it takes less than 20 seconds for your shower flow to fill a one gallon bucket, a low-flow shower head could help save on water heating costs.