

















HOME ENERGY SAVING IDEAS

Living in a home, whether you own it or rent it, requires a financial commitment. That commitment includes the bills you pay every month for the energy your home consumes. You pay to power your home with electricity. You pay to heat and cool it. All of those things add up.

Making your home energy efficient can go a long way toward lowering those bills, but it's not something you can do in one day. It's a series of changes—some small, some large—that you make over time to increase your home's efficiency.

An efficient home is one that uses the energy you pay for with as little waste as possible. This means the money you spend to run your home stays in your home and does not leak out because of poor insulation, drafty windows, or other inefficiencies.

Making your home more efficient reduces the amount of energy you use, which means paying less on your energy bills. Lower energy bills will leave you more money to invest in your home and your family. You can start taking these steps this afternoon, this week, or this month. The most important thing is to recognize the changes you can make to create a more efficient home, and make them whenever you can.

TODAY

Adjust your thermostat. Set it high in the summer, to 78 degrees. It should be warm but still feel comfortable. Turn on a fan before turning on the air conditioner. In the winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees, and reach for a sweater before turning it up. For every degree you turn down the temperature, you will save up to 5 percent in heating costs, or about \$45 during the winter heating season. Five degrees can save up to \$225!

THIS WEEK

Look at your lighting. Count all of the lights in your home and decide how many you can replace with light emitting diode bulbs (LEDs). It's a small change, but it will save you money. Typically LEDs use about 25%-80% less energy than traditional incandescents, and last 3-25 times longer.

Use the sleep features on computers and other office equipment. An average household spends up to \$175 each year powering computers and other electronics, according to the Rocky Mountain Institute. Using the sleep mode can cut that amount by more than 60 percent. Also consider investing in an energy-saving power strip with auto-switching technology. It will automatically turn off power when not in use to save energy.

THIS MONTH

Find out if your home is leaking air—then seal it up. Your home can leak air through doors, windows, the attic, and other spaces. This means the air you pay to heat and cool is actually going outdoors. Sealing air leaks can cut your energy bill by 5 to 10 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Purchase a programmable thermostat. You save money by turning the heat down while you are away from home during the day and while you sleep at night. Buying a programmable thermostat makes this easy because it can automatically change the heat settings, saving up to \$150 every year, according to Energy Star.

THIS YEAR

Tune up your heating or cooling system. Heating can account for one-third of your home's energy bill. A professional tune-up will make sure your system runs as efficiently as possible and save you money. You should also replace air filters once a month to maximize efficiency.

Look for the Energy Star label. If you need to buy a new appliance, choose one certified by Energy Star. This government program certifies energy-efficient appliances, including washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, room air conditioners, and dehumidifiers. Choosing these models will lower your energy bill because they meet stricter energy efficiency standards than other appliances.

Think about adding more insulation. It helps protect your home from heat loss and can save you up to 20 percent on your heating and cooling bills by keeping the air you pay to heat and cool inside your home.

TO POWER YOUR HOME. AND IT CAN GET EXPENSIVE

You pay for electricity. You pay for heat. You pay for hot water. All of those costs add up. But most families can save money on their energy bills by taking simple steps to reduce their energy use. These don't involve expensive equipment, and they won't take a lot of time.

This coloring book offers lots of energy-saving suggestions that will make your home more efficient, safer, and more comfortable. You'll find information you can use to reduce your home's energy bill, including ways to save on lighting, appliances, water, and heating.

KIEY SOURCES AND MORE INFORMATIONS

For more information about saving energy in your home, check out the following sources:

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's Consumer Guide to Home Energy Savings (www.aceee.org/consumer)

United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.cpsc.gov)

The United States Department of Energy Tips (www.energy.gov/energysaver)

Energy Star (www.energystar.gov)

Additional information about Project Energy Savers can be found at **www.projectenergysavers.com**

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