

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

FOR YOUR APARTMENT
SAMPLE



COOLING

To run your air conditioner without running up your energy bill, keep these tips in mind.

01 ROOM A/C SIZE

Too big: If you buy one that's too big, it won't remove the humidity from your home and it will turn on and off more frequently than a system of the proper size. This increases wear and shortens its life span.

Too small: An undersized unit won't cool your apartment.

Just right: Estimate 20 Btus for each square foot of living space.



TIP: Use a fan first! A fan is cheap and effective, especially if it has an ENERGY STAR® rating.



02 LOCATION

Not too close to an appliance that emits heat. The A/C unit will “think” the room is hotter than it is and run unnecessarily.

Tightly installed in the window so cool air can't escape outdoors.

In a shaded window so it isn't heated by sunlight, which reduces efficiency. And keep curtains closed during the day to help reduce the cooling load.

03 FEATURES

ENERGY STAR–rated for maximum efficiency.

A built-in timer that turns the A/C on when you're home and off when you're not.

A programmable thermostat that automatically adjusts for comfort and need.

An accessible filter to make regular cleaning easy.

A CEER (combined energy-efficiency ratio) of at least 10.8.

04 SETTINGS

78°F is great: it will feel comfortable but not frigid and save energy too.

Off when no one is home: turn on the air only in rooms that are in use.

05 MAINTENANCE

Clean filters monthly: dirty filters block airflow.

Get a tune-up in the spring, before technicians are in high demand.

Remove the A/C unit from the window during the winter, or insulate the back with a tight-fitting cover.

LIGHTING

You spend 10% of your energy dollars on lighting.
Here are three ways you can trim costs.

01 LIGHTS

Buy ENERGY STAR-rated fixtures and lamps: they use a quarter of the energy of older models.

Turn off the lights when you leave the room.



TIP: Shop for LEDs during October, National Energy Action Month. There are lots of sales!

02 WINDOWS

Use daylight to light your apartment—it's free.

North- and south-facing windows provide natural light without heat or glare.

East- and west-facing windows are best in the morning and evening when the sun's rays are less direct.

03 BULBS

Replace incandescent bulbs with light-emitting diode bulbs (LEDs): LEDs can be up to seven times more energy efficient than conventional incandescent lights and cut energy use by more than 80%.

For extra savings, try ENERGY STAR-rated LEDs: they last 25 times longer than traditional bulbs.

Clean bulbs regularly: a dirty bulb is 25% less efficient.

WATER

You pay twice for hot water: once to buy it and once to heat it. Here are ways you and your landlord can lower your costs.

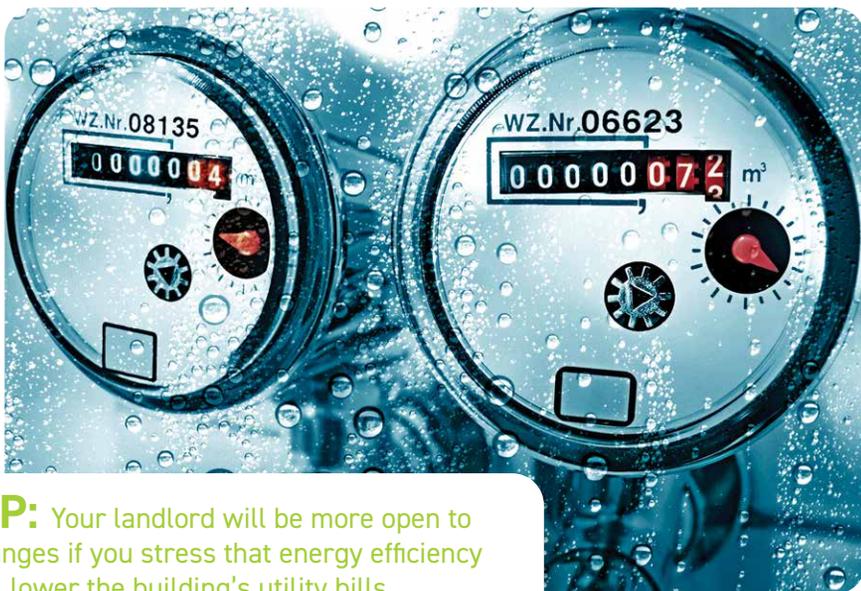
01 YOU CAN

Use less hot water by taking shorter, cooler showers.

Install low-flow showerheads: they use one-third less water.

Leave shoes outside: cleaner floors mean less mopping.

Run the dishwasher only when it's full.



TIP: Your landlord will be more open to changes if you stress that energy efficiency will lower the building's utility bills.



02 YOUR LANDLORD CAN

Lower the thermostat of the water heater to 120°F.

Fix leaky faucets: 30 drops per minute equals 50 gallons a month!

Install low-flow aerators on faucets.

Fix a running toilet.

Install a high-efficiency toilet to save 16,500 gallons of water a year.

LAUNDRY

Washing your clothes uses water and electricity.
You can use less of both and save money in the process.

01 WHERE DO YOU WASH YOUR CLOTHES?

In your apartment?

Choose an ENERGY STAR washer to trim \$50 a year from your utility bill and save 7,000 gallons of water.

Use high-speed spin cycles to extract the most water from your clothes.

In your building?

Urge your landlord to switch to ENERGY STAR commercial washers to cut water and energy use by 50%.

In a laundromat?

Select a business that uses ENERGY STAR commercial washers.

Request cold-water washing.



TIP: Many ENERGY STAR washers have a greater capacity than conventional models, which means you can do fewer loads and spend less time doing laundry.

02 WASHING MACHINE

Wash full loads only! The machine fills with water whether it contains one item or a full load.

Use cold water for everyday laundry; use hot water only for extra-dirty loads.

03 DRYER

Air dry your clothes outside—sunshine is free.

Use the moisture sensor and the automatic shut-off functions on your dryer to save energy and avoid overdrying.

Clean your lint filter after each load: one load captures enough lint to reduce airflow.

KITCHEN

Your major appliances are big energy hogs. These tips can help you curb their energy appetite.

01 THE FRIDGE

Set the temperature to 36°F–38°F and the freezer to 0°F–5°F.

Verify these temperatures with a test. Put one thermometer in a glass of water in the fridge and another between two packages in the freezer. Check the temperatures in 24 hours.

Wrap food: uncovered food leaches moisture, making the fridge work harder.

Fill the freezer: it's less efficient when empty. Fill empty spaces with jugs of frozen water.

Defrost your manual-defrost model.



TIP: Is it time to replace the fridge, dishwasher, or stove? Urge your landlord to buy ENERGY STAR-rated equipment. You'll both save money.



02 THE DISHWASHER

Run the dishwasher rather than wash dishes by hand to save 5,000 gallons of water and about \$40 in utility costs per year.

Fully load the dishwasher before washing a load.

Turn on the dishwasher's air-dry mode.

Scrape plates instead of prerinsing.

03 THE STOVE OR OVEN

Choose a pot or pan of the right size: if it's too small for the burner, 40% of the heat gets wasted.

Use a lid to cook food faster.

Heat small dishes in a slow cooker, microwave, or toaster oven.

Keep the inside of the microwave clean—it'll run better.

HEATING

Sometimes tenants pay for heat, and sometimes landlords do. Here's how everybody can pay less.

01 YOU CAN

Slip into a cozy sweater and plush slippers before turning up the heat.

Program the thermostat lower at night and any regular time when no one is home for gas and oil forced-air heating systems

Turn down or turn off heaters in hallways and empty rooms.

Make sure vents, radiators, and air registers aren't blocked by furniture or drapes.

Open the blinds to let warm sunlight in during the day; close them at night to keep in the heat.

Never use the oven as a space heater!



TIP: Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms are essential to detect potentially dangerous fires and carbon monoxide poisoning. Install them today, and replace the batteries every year unless you've purchased a lithium battery alarm, in which case you should follow the manufacturer's guidelines.

02 YOUR LANDLORD CAN

Insulate the building, which will improve efficiency in your apartment, especially if it's just below the attic or just above the basement.

Have a pro inspect the furnace or boiler.

Turn down or turn off radiators and baseboards in hallways and empty rooms.

Turn down the thermostats.

Caulk air leaks.

Weather-strip windows and doors and seal ducts.

03 SHOULD YOU USE A SPACE HEATER?

Be careful! Six thousand people are treated in emergency rooms every year from burns caused by space heaters. If you must use a space heater, make sure it's electric. (Kerosene or propane space heaters emit potentially dangerous levels of carbon monoxide and other by-products.) Make sure your space heater meets the latest safety standards, is placed on a nonflammable surface, and is at least three feet away from flammable objects like curtains.

ELECTRONICS

When we unwind in front of the TV, a video game, or a computer, our electronics are working hard.

01 AT HOME

Turn on the sleep mode: it can cut energy use by 60%!

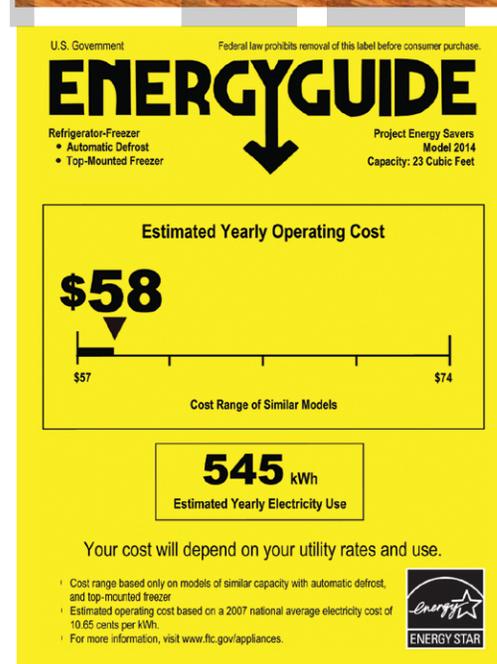
Plug the stereo, laptop, monitor, DVD player, and game console into power strips to make shutdown easy.

Turn off power strips while you're at work or asleep so electronics don't needlessly waste energy, and use smart power strips wherever possible.

Unplug chargers for cell phones, digital cameras, and MP3 players when not in use.



TIP: Electronics and appliances have two price tags: the purchase price and the operating cost. Those with an ENERGY STAR rating will have an EnergyGuide label that tells you how much they'll cost to operate every year.



02 AT THE STORE

Look for the EnergyGuide label; it identifies energy-efficient products that offer savings on energy bills without sacrificing performance, features, and comfort.

Compare brands to find the best combination of price, features, and efficiency.

SOURCES

ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (www.energystar.gov)

Rocky Mountain Institute (www.rmi.org)

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (www.aceee.org)

The Alliance to Save Energy (www.ase.org)

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.cpsc.gov)

U.S. Department of Energy (www.energy.gov)

U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (www.eere.energy.gov)

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