



Winter Energy Savings

FAST FACTS:



- Cranking up the heat to warm the house quickly doesn't work. The house will warm up at the same rate, regardless of the temperature setting.
- Setting your thermostat at 68 °F or lower during the day and 55 °F at night can save up to 20% on your heating costs. Lowering your thermostat by just 1 °F to 2 °F at all times can save up to 5% on your heating costs.
- Sealing the leaks in windows, door frames, and where pipes, vents, or electrical conduits go through a wall, ceiling or floor can save up to 10 % on heating costs.
- Keeping your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning can prevent up to 8 % of air from exiting the chimney.
- Setting the water heater to the "normal" setting or 120 °F can save 7-11% of water heating costs.
- Cleaning your furnace can save up to 5% on heating costs, while a tune-up can save 3 to 10%.
- Older strings of incandescent holiday lights can use up to 99% more energy than new LED light strings.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:



You can help! We can work together to conserve energy and lower energy bills by following these tips.

1. **Let the sunshine in.** Open window coverings and let the sun heat your home for free during the day.
2. **Close the blinds.** Close window coverings at sundown so they help insulate.
3. **Lower the thermostat.** Install a smart thermostat, programmable thermostat, or set a timer so that your thermostat is 68 °F or lower during the day and 55 °F at night or when leaving home for an extended time. If you can't do so, lower your thermostat by just 1 °F to 2 °F at all times (or more at night).
4. **Keep the cold air out.** Cover window air conditioners to reduce drafts. Use weather stripping, clear plastic sheeting, caulk, or tape to seal up cracks and stop drafts in windows and doors. Beneath doors, install draft guards or door snakes. Caulk leaks where pipes, vents, or electrical conduits go through a wall, ceiling or floor.
5. **Insulate.** Increase the thickness of your ceiling and attic insulation. Wrap the hot water tank with jacket insulation (be sure to leave the air intake vent uncovered).
6. **Maintain your furnace.** Clean or replace your furnace filter regularly and "tune-up" your furnace annually. Keeping your furnace clean, lubricated, and properly adjusted will reduce energy use.
7. **Use energy efficient holiday lighting.** Dispose of older incandescent lights and buy new LED holiday lights. Turn on your holiday lights for no more than 6 hours per day, and consider purchasing a lighting timer.
8. **Don't waste heat.** Avoid heating areas that are not insulated, such as a garage, crawlspace, attic or storage sheds. Avoid heating unused rooms by closing doors.
9. **Get a humidifier.** Adding a humidifier to your heating system may allow you to turn your thermostat down and be comfortable at lower temperatures.
10. **Have a real fire place? Use those dampers.** Close dampers when the fireplace is not in use. When you do use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers or open the nearest window slightly and close the doors.
11. **Have a garage? Close the door.** In doing so, you'll retain warmer air against the garage-side wall of the house and it will act as a buffer against the colder outdoor air.

LEARN MORE:

PSE&G Winter Energy Savings Tips https://www.pseg.com/home/save/manage_costs/tips.jsp

US DOE EnergySavers Top 10 Winter Tips to Save Energy and Money <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/top-10-tips-save-energy-and-money-winter>

US DOE Energy Savers Fall and Winter Energy Savings Tips <http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/fall-and-winter-energy-saving-tips>

Winter Time Energy Savings Tips <http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/tips/winter.html>