

Household guide to saving energy and money

Every effort you make to save energy at home means dollars saved for use somewhere else. By taking a few proactive steps, you can make your home a more energy-efficient and comfortable place to live. If you have questions, we're here to help. Call **1-800-222-4335** and we'll answer your questions, and, even better, tell you about Pacific Power's rebates and low-interest loans to help pay for energy-efficient upgrades.

Important, one-time weatherization investments

- Increase attic insulation (if less than three inches exist) to R-38
- Add attic ventilation
- Extend kitchen and bath fan exhaust ducts to roof vent
- Add wall insulation to R-11 in walls
- Add floor insulation to at least R-19
- Install ground cover in crawl space to reduce moisture
- Insulate ducts to R-11
- Seal air leaks
- Install insulated exterior doors (at least R-7)
- Install energy-efficient windows and patio doors (U-value 0.35 or lower)

Routine maintenance projects

- Fix leaky faucets. Thirty drips of hot water a minute can waste 50 gallons of water and the related energy cost to heat it.
- Examine your heating and cooling systems. Your heating/cooling system technician or energy auditor may be able to help you evaluate your existing systems and decide whether replacement is a good idea or whether you should retrofit them to provide the same or improved comfort for less energy.
- Clean or replace furnace, air conditioner and heat pump filters. Dust and dirt can quickly clog vital parts making your furnace run harder and eventually break down. Furnace filters can cost as little as \$1 each and can greatly increase your heating system's efficiency. Air conditioner filters should be cleaned or replaced once a month during use.
- Insulate hot water pipes wherever they run through unheated areas.
- Locate and seal the air leaks in your home. The worst culprits are usually not windows and doors but gaps around plumbing pipes, recessed lights, unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets and joints in heating ducts. To learn how to find and fix hidden air leaks, check out the Oregon State University Extension Office brochure available at their Web site <http://eesc.orst.edu>.
- Have your heating system inspected annually if you have a forced-air furnace or heat pump. A \$50 to \$100 tune-up can help reduce your heating costs by up to five percent.
- Install a programmable thermostat to set your thermostat back automatically at night. For every 10 degrees back you set your thermostat over an eight-hour period, you will lower your energy bills 10 percent. A \$50 digital thermostat can pay for itself in less than a year.
- Replace aging and inefficient appliances. Even if the appliance has a few useful years left, replacing it with a top-efficiency model is generally a good investment. Look for appliances with the Energy Star label.

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- Insulate and seal heating system ducts, particularly those passing through unheated areas. Improperly sealed and insulated ducts typically waste up to 25 percent of your system's heat and can also cause indoor air quality problems.
- Reduce your air conditioning costs by planting shade trees and shrubs in your yard, especially on the west side of the house. One well-placed shade tree can reduce your cooling costs by 25 percent.
- Install an automatic timer that lets you program the water heater's thermostat to a lower temperature at low usage times and raise it during peak usage.
- Install a water-saving showerhead. Newer models deliver excellent pressure.
- If you have one of those silent energy guzzlers – a waterbed – make your bed today. The covers will insulate and save you up to one-third of the energy it uses.

Daily energy-saving basics

- Use energy-saving settings on refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines and clothes dryers.
- Look for opportunities to replace your incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescents (CFLs). The new CFLs use 75 percent less electricity than a standard bulb and last 10 times longer.
- Check your heating system's thermostat for accuracy by comparing it against the reading on your wall thermometer.
- Keep the thermostat between 65 and 68°F. You can cut up to three percent from your heating costs for every degree you set back your thermostat over an eight-hour period.
- Turn the temperature on your water heater to 120°F. If you have a gas water heater, turn the thermostat to low or medium. You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid potential scalding. If you have a dishwasher, you may need to increase it to 140°F (check manufacturer's specifications for further details). Caution: Before changing the thermostat temperatures, please turn off your power at the fuse box.
- Turn off faucets immediately after use. Turning the faucet on only when necessary can save thousands of gallons of water a year, plus the energy needed to heat it.
- If you have a second refrigerator, consider getting rid of it, especially if it was manufactured prior to 1993. It could be costing you up to \$20 per month to power.

For more information about what you can do and on how rebates or loans from Pacific Power can help, call our Energy Services Hotline at 1-800-222-4335. Information is also available on our Web site at www.pacificpower.net.



Making it happen.