

Saving energy in your home can be easier than you think. By committing to just a few of the following tips, you can benefit the environment and watch your energy bills diminish year-round.

**Service your furnace annually.** Have a qualified contractor service your furnace and any gas appliances. Clean and replace filters at least four times per year for maximum output. Try to do this monthly during the high-operating season.

**Install low-flow shower heads and fix leaky faucets.**

**Caulk and weather-strip around doors and windows.** Use these methods to maintain more efficient temperature control.

**Set up a programmable thermostat.** Keep the air temperature in your home a few degrees warmer in the summer and cooler in the winter. Make appropriate dress accommodations to compensate for the change, such as wearing thinner, lightly colored material in the summer and heavier sweaters during winter months.

**Run your dishwasher, washing machine and dryer with full loads only.** Waiting to use these appliances until they are full will decrease the number of loads used to get your dishes and clothes clean, saving significant amounts of water and energy.

**Turn off the air conditioning.** Open windows, run fans and block out sunlight with drapes and blinds.

**Use compact, fluorescent light bulbs for more efficient light usage.** Turn off lights when you leave a room.

**Turn the temperatures of your water heater down and your refrigerator up.** Be careful not to turn the refrigerator temperature too high to avoid spoiling perishable items.

**Avoid blocking heating vents.** Placing furniture, carpet or window treatments over vents can decrease the output of your furnace.

**Shut the damper when your fireplace is not in use.**

**Insulate.** Properly insulate your attic, ceiling, walls and floors above unheated crawl spaces, in accordance with current building codes.

#### Additional Information

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