

Winter Energy Conservation Tips

Look for the Energy Star label, the symbol for energy efficiency, when buying home appliances and products.

Households that replace existing appliance with Energy Star products can cut annual energy bills by 30 percent.

Set your thermostat at 68 degrees or lower during the day and 55 degrees or off at night, health permitting. Keep warm indoors by wearing warm clothing, especially several lightweight layers. These measures can save 5 percent to 10 percent on heating costs.

Installing a programmable thermostat can help you reduce your heating and cooling bills by as much as 10 percent a year.

Sealing air leaks in your home can reduce energy usage of 10 percent or more.

Clean or replace central air system filters once a month.

Set ceiling fans to run clockwise to draw the air up and keep warm air circulating.

Caulk and weather strip doors and windows.

Keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed.