

Easy Energy Saving Tips

The following tips from the U.S. Department of Energy can help you save money on your energy bill and help the environment at the same time.

SERVICE YOUR AIR CONDITIONER

Easy maintenance, such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters, can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15 percent. Also, the first day of spring could serve as a reminder to check your air conditioner's evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing at optimal levels.

OPEN WINDOWS

Opening windows creates a cross-breeze, allowing you to naturally cool your home without switch-

ing on air conditioners. This is an ideal tactic in spring, when temperatures are mild.

USE CEILING FANS

Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat four degrees. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing over-all comfort.

COOK OUTSIDE

On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of indoor ovens.

INSTALL WINDOW TREATMENTS

Energy-efficient window treatments or coverings, such as blinds, shades and films, can slash heat

gain when temperatures rise. These devices not only improve the look of your home but also reduce energy costs.

CAULK AIR LEAKS

Use low-cost caulk to seal cracks and openings in your home to keep warm air out — and cash in your wallet.

BRING IN SUNLIGHT

During daylight hours, switch off artificial lights and use windows and skylights to brighten your home.

WATCH THE THERMOSTAT

On warm days, setting a programmable thermostat to a higher setting when you are not at home

can help reduce your energy costs by approximately 10 percent.

SEAL DUCTS

Air loss through ducts can lead to high electricity costs, accounting for nearly 30 percent of a cooling system's energy consumption. Sealing and insulating ducts can go a long way toward lowering your electricity bills.

SWITCH ON BATHROOM FANS

Bathroom fans suck out heat and humidity from your home, improving comfort.

These simple little tips add up to big money savings on your energy bill. They also make your carbon footprint much smaller.

You have more important things to do than worry about your heating and air conditioning...

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