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ENERGY SAVER

Tips For Saving Electricity

Where Your Home Energy Dollars Go
44% for Heating and Cooling
33% for Lighting, Cooking, and other Appliances
14% for Water Heating
9% Refrigeration

Buying A Home:

Look for energy efficient features. They may cost more up front, but energy-efficient homes cost less to own. Look for passive solar, energy-efficient heating and cooling, tightly sealed ducts, and energy-saving windows.

Buying Appliances:

A new refrigerator uses just half the energy of a 10-year-old unit. A new washing machine can cut energy use by up to 70%. Replace older appliances with energy saving units.

Vacationing: Going away for 24 hours or more? Turn off heaters and air conditioners; pool and waterbed heaters; fans, lights, and small appliances. Going for 48+ hours? Also turn the water heater off or down, per manufacturer's instructions.

Trees and lawns: Plant trees for cooling shade! Plant a deciduous tree on the south or west side of your home. It will provide cool shade in summer and allow warming sun to reach the house in fall and winter. Hand mow small lawns. Don't over idle your gas mower.

Washing machine: Match washer's load selector to your load size. Try to wash only full loads. Minimize detergent use. Save energy by using cold water to wash. Buying a new washing machine? Choose wisely. Find the one that conserves water and energy and has a suds-saver attachment. Washing clothes by hand can be easier and save water if you use only a small amount of low-suds detergent and presoak really dirty items.

Faucets: A household faucet runs at 3 to 5 gallons a minute. Avoid waste! Turn faucets off firmly. Twice a year, check all faucets inside and outside for leaks. Replace worn-out fixtures, washers, O-rings, and hose connections.

Water heater: Letting water run from the faucet until it heats up is a waste. Instead of sending it down the drain, capture clean water for other uses such as cleaning and watering plants. Insulate hot water pipes to save energy.

Garbage Disposal: Find a better way. Avoid using garbage disposals. Compost or feed your leftovers to pets when possible. Use recycled water in the disposal.

Dishwasher: Use a rubber spatula to scrape dishes clean to limit pre-rinse. Let really dirty pans or dishes soak to speed washing. Limit dishwasher use to full loads. Minimize detergent use. Prepare food with an eye to reducing dishwashing.

Car wash: Choose a car wash that recycles water. At home, use a shut-off nozzle and wash your car in small sections. Direct the runoff to water landscaping.

Pools, Spas: Cover pools or spas to reduce evaporation. Avoid overflows and splashes by reducing water levels. Water your landscape with wading pool water.

Landscaping: Landscaping benefits most from slow, thorough, infrequent watering. Minimize evaporation by watering in early morning or evening. Aerate lawns. Install drip irrigation and automatic timers. Try to plant hardy, water-saving plants, trees, and shrubs, particularly native species. Mow less frequently in dry times. Limit lawn by using gravel or bark.

Cleaning House: Conserve when cleaning. For heavy cleaning, use water you've saved from other household uses and then a clean rinse. Limit soaps and cleaning agents.

Drinking water: At restaurants, request only the drinking water you need. At work, fill your durable cup at the water fountain to reduce waste. Cool drinking water in the refrigerator or with ice, not by running the tap. Use leftover drinking water for pets or to water plants.

Kitchen: Speed cleaning food by using a vegetable brush. Spray water in short bursts. Faucet aerators cut consumption. Plan ahead to defrost foods overnight in the refrigerator. Don't use running water. Use the microwave or put wrapped food in a bowl of cold water. When washing dishes do one of two things; fill one side of the sink with water to rinse dishes in or turn the faucet on only long enough to rinse the dish. Never let the faucet run continuously to rinse dishes.

CONSERVING WATER:

Protects clean drinking water, a decreasing resource

Saves money in water and sewage rates

Reduces sewage treatment loads