



- 1 Switch to compact fluorescent lights from incandescent bulbs whenever possible. CFLs are 3 to 4 times more efficient and last 10 times longer.
- 2 Save electricity when cooking by using a kettle or covering a pan when boiling water. Plus turn off the burners and the oven several minutes before the cooking time is over. Both will shorten the amount of time the heating elements are on.
- 3 When washing clothes, wash in cold water whenever possible. Save warm/hot water cycles for whites and hard-to-clean items. Always rinse in cold water.
- 4 Use a programmable thermostat for automatic energy savings. Set the thermostat for lower heating temperatures at night when everyone is asleep and during the day if nobody is home.
- 5 To operate your air conditioner unit more efficiently, turn on your ceiling fans to create air movement across the skin, lowering skin temperature through evaporation. You can raise the A/C thermostat setting up to 4 degrees F without any decrease in comfort. Each degree you raise the thermostat above 78 degrees F you save about 7 to 8 percent on your electric cooling costs.
- 6 Close your blinds and drapes at night in the winter to keep the cold out.
- 7 Clean or replace filters regularly on furnaces and air conditioners and remove debris and leaves from outside units so vents don't clog.
- 8 Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air.
- 9 Help create shade on the sunny side of your house by planting a tree or adding a retractable awning on a window. Eliminating the heat and glare of the sun on the house will lower your cooling bills. A retractable awning will let more sun in on those cool days as well.
- 10 If you are leaving a room for any length of time, shut off the lights and any appliances there, anything that is using electricity that doesn't need to be on. Unplug battery chargers, such as cell phone chargers, when they aren't in use. Conventional battery chargers, even when not actively charging a product can draw as much as 5 to 20 times more energy than is actually stored in the battery.