

PLUG LOADS

Eliminate Phantom Load

- Many electronics still use energy even when they're turned off--such as powering that little clock on your microwave when it's not in use. Where possible, unplug your electronics or plug them into a power strip and switch it off to save on this "phantom load." This is especially easy to do when you are on vacation.
- Plug home electronics into power strips with surge protection. Turn the strip off when the equipment is not in use.

Lights

- Turn off the lights & reduce your electric usage by as much as 2%. If you have a forgetful family member, paste reminders on the switch plates or consider installing motion-activated switches.
- Use a desk lamp with a CFL bulb instead of turning on the overhead lights.
- When purchasing holiday lights, look for LED lights because they use less energy than traditional light strings

COOKING

Oven / Stove

- Your microwave requires about the same amount of energy per hour to operate as your electric oven. But, since it cooks food much more quickly, it saves you time and up to 75% in energy use.
- It takes less energy to reheat meals than when cooking them for the first time. When possible, try cooking larger meals then reheating the leftovers.
- Don't pre-heat if you don't have to. If you're baking breads and cakes, pre-heating your oven may be necessary. But for most foods, like casseroles and broiled items, pre-heating simply isn't needed.
- Keep your range burners and reflectors clean, as clean burners utilize energy more efficiently.
- When boiling water, make sure to place the lid on the pot.
- Use a pot or pan that completely covers the stove's heating element. When any part of the element is exposed, you're wasting heat and energy.

HEATING/COOLING

Heating

- Use your programmable thermostat on your heater. Set it to turn off or down when you are sleeping or when you will not be at home. Set the furnace thermostat at 68 degrees or lower. 3 % to 5 % more energy is used for each degree the furnace is set above 68 degrees.
- Do not have the heater on and your doors or windows open.
- If you have a fireplace, make sure the flu is closed when you do not have a lighted fire.
- Take advantage of the sun's warmth by keeping drapes open during daylight hours.
- Make sure drapes and furniture are not blocking the air supply vents in your home.

Air Conditioning

- Use a programmable thermostat where possible. Set the thermostat at 78 degrees. For each degree the air-conditioner is set below 78 degrees it raises your energy use by approximately 3% to 5%.
- Do not run your air conditioner with doors or windows open. Even a small opening will allow precious cold air to escape.
- Reduce air conditioning costs by using fans, keeping windows and doors shut, and closing shades during the day. Most ceiling fans use less energy than a light bulb.
- Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you first turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and, therefore, unnecessary expense. This practice can also make your A/C “freeze up” and stop working.
- Consider using an interior fan along with your window air conditioner to spread the cooled air through your home without greatly increasing your power use.
- Draw the shades or drapes to block sunlight during the hottest part of the day.
- Make sure drapes and furniture are not blocking the air supply vents in your home.

HOT WATER USE

Clothes Washer and Dryer (if applicable)

- Washing clothes in cold water gets them just as clean as hot water. About 90% of the energy used in washing clothes goes to heating the water.
- Make sure your dryer's outside vent is clear and clean the lint filter after every load.
- Dry towels and heavier fabrics in a separate load from lighter-weight clothes.
- Don't over-dry your clothes. If your machine has a moisture sensor, use it.
- Use the cool-down cycle to allow the clothes to finish drying with the heat remaining in the dryer.

- Use an automatic clothes-drying cycle instead of a timed cycle. Put in the next load quickly to make use of leftover heat
- Create less heat in your home by drying clothes in the early morning or later in the evening.

Dishwasher

- Air dry dishes and reduce your energy use by about 3%.
- Run the dishwasher early in the morning or late at night to reduce the impact on the electric grid when demand is greatest during the day.
- Run your dishwasher only when fully loaded.
- Scrape, don't rinse, large food pieces and bones. Soaking or prewashing is generally only recommended in cases of burned- or dried-on food.
- Avoid using the "rinse hold" on your machine for just a few soiled dishes. It uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use.

Shower

- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month. This also reduces the energy used to heat the water.