

## OTHER WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY IN YOUR HOME

- Look for the Energy Star label on appliances and consider these options when shopping for new or replacement appliances. Energy Star clothes washers for example use 50% less energy than standard washers.
- Contact your utility to see if they provide energy audits to find out where your home is wasting energy and how you can prevent it. Professional energy consultants can provide energy audits on your home as well.
- Adding insulation and properly sealing air leaks can reduce heating and cooling costs by up to 10%. You should check the insulation levels in your attic, floors, crawl spaces an exterior and basement walls. For discovering the amount of insulation that's right for your home, click on [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov) and use the Zip Code Insulation Calculator.

To learn more about saving energy in your home, please visit

[www.energy.gov/yourhome.htm](http://www.energy.gov/yourhome.htm)

or

[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

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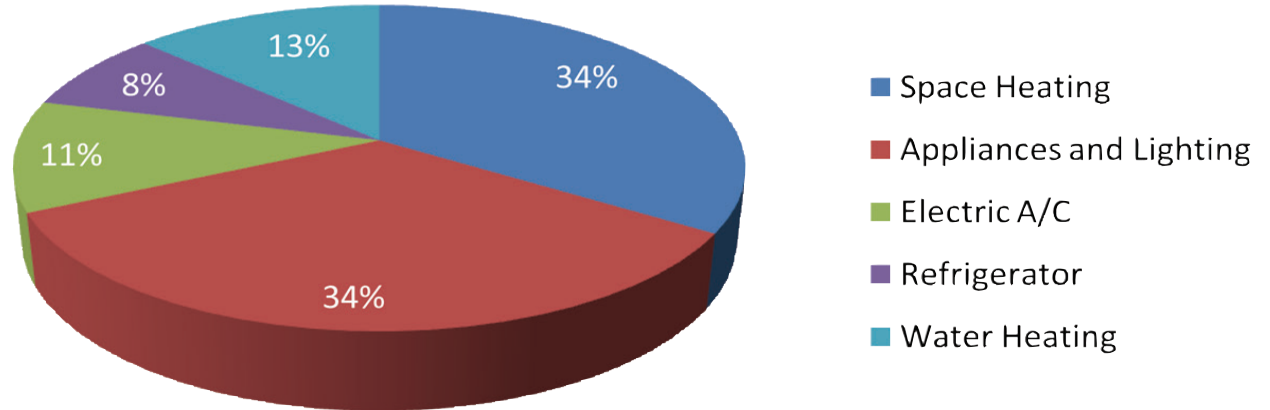
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## YOUR GUIDE TO HOME ENERGY USE AND EFFICIENCY



# HOW YOUR HOME USES ENERGY

Americans spend more than \$160 billion a year to heat, cool, light, and live in our homes. Unfortunately, some of that money is wasted through leaky doors and windows and inefficient heating and cooling systems. In fact, many households could save an estimated 20-30 percent on energy bills by implementing simple energy efficiency improvements and practices. This guide is to help you better understand how your home uses energy and how you can reduce your energy costs.



## LOW COST ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

- Set your thermostat comfortably low in the winter and comfortably high in the summer. You can save up to 10% on your heating and cooling bills by simply turning your thermostat back or up a few degrees. Another option is to install a programmable thermostat that will adjust your heating and cooling system automatically.
- Plug holes or cracks around your walls, ceilings, windows, doors, light and plumbing fixtures, switches, and electrical outlets that can leak air into or out of your home. Caulking and weatherstripping can save you up to 10% on your heating and cooling costs by reducing air leaks.
- On sunny days, take advantage of the sun's energy. Open blinds, shades, and curtains, especially if your windows face south, to help keep your home or apartment warm.

Then simply turn down the thermostat or close the radiator valves to keep from getting too hot. At night, close the blinds, shades, and curtains to help keep heat in rather than allowing it to escape through the window.

- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs. These energy efficient lights can reduce your lighting costs between 50% and 75%. Study your family's lighting needs and use patterns, paying special attention to high-use areas such as the living room, kitchen, and outside lighting. Look for ways to use lighting controls—like occupancy sensors, dimmers, or timers—to reduce lighting energy use.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and air dry them instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle. Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold – 37 to 40 degrees is recommended

for the fresh food compartment and 5 degrees for the freezer section. Make sure the seals are air tight.

- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use. Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use (TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use several watts of power).
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120° F. Insulate your electric hot water storage tank being careful not to cover the thermostat. Oil and gas hot water storage tanks can be insulated -- be careful not to cover the tank's top, bottom, thermostat or burner compartment. Consider insulating the first six feet of the hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater.