

This handy energy-efficiency checklist will help you identify ways to use less energy.

Inside Your Home ...

Attic

Insulation and Air Flow

- Do not block attic vents.
- Weatherstrip and insulate.

Ducts

- Seal duct connections and seams with duct sealant.
- Wrap ducts in insulation (R-6 to R-8 is recommended).
- Cover ducts with blown insulation.

Chimney

- Seal hidden air leaks.
- Cover chimney and furnace flue gaps with metal flashing.
- Caulk small flue gaps with high-temperature caulk.

Plumbing Stack

- Seal small gaps with caulk.
- Seal holes up to three inches in diameter with spray foam.
- Cover spaces larger than three inches with a piece of foam board and seal with spray foam.

Bedrooms

1 2 3 4 (Number of bedrooms)

Lighting

- Use ENERGY STAR® qualified fixtures and CFL bulbs.

Insulation and Air Flow

- Replace your screens with storm windows.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doorframes.
- Clear any obstructions away from air registers and vents.

Bathroom

Lighting

- Use ENERGY STAR qualified fixtures and CFL bulbs.

Insulation and Air Flow

- Replace your screens with storm windows.
- Install a properly sized ENERGY STAR qualified ventilation fan.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and door frames that leak air.
- Cover and seal all holes in the plumbing, ductwork, or electrical runs.

Home Office

Lighting

- Use ENERGY STAR qualified fixtures and CFL bulbs.

Insulation and Air Flow

- Clear any obstructions from air registers and vents.
- Seal holes around outlets.

Appliances and Electronics

- Enable power management features on your home computer and monitor.

Living Room

Lighting

- Use ENERGY STAR qualified fixtures and CFL bulbs.
- Keep drapes open during the winter daylight hours, and close window shades and drapes in summer daylight hours.

Insulation and Air Flow

- Ensure all air registers are clear of furniture.
- Replace your screens with storm windows.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and door frames.
- Seal any holes with caulk or spray foam where pipes or TV/cable wires and vents enter or exit your home.

Kitchen

Lighting

- Use ENERGY STAR qualified fixtures and CFL bulbs.

Insulation and Air Flow

- Clear any obstructions away from air registers or floor vents.
- Replace your screens with storm windows.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doorframes.

Appliances and Electronics

- Replace your old refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerator.
- Check the door gaskets on your refrigerator and freezer. Close the door on a dollar bill. If the bill can be easily pulled from the closed door, you should replace the gasket.
- Vacuum the coils on your refrigerator and freezer units at least every three months.

Dining Room

Lighting

- Replace light fixtures or the bulbs in them with ENERGY STAR qualified CFL bulbs.

Insulation and Air Flow

- Clear any obstructions from air registers or floor vents.
- Caulk door frames and weatherstrip around doors.
- Replace your sliding door with an ENERGY STAR qualified door.
- Seal any holes around your outlets with an inexpensive outlet gasket.

Heating and Cooling

- Install a programmable thermostat.

Inside Your Home ... cont'd

HVAC

- Use a dehumidifier to remove excess moisture (humidity).
- Set your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees or lower.
- Check your system's air filter once a month and replace it at least every three months.
- Schedule a pre-season check-up of your HVAC system by a licensed contractor in the spring and fall.
- Replace your furnace if it is more than 15 years old, or your A/C unit if it is more than 12 years old.
- Purchase an air conditioner of the proper size to fit your needs.
- Keep all filters and fans clean for efficient operation.

Outside Your Home ...

Porch Lights

- Install ENERGY STAR qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).
- Install a new ENERGY STAR qualified outdoor fixture.
- Seal up air leaks and add insulation.

Landscaping

- Plant shrubs, bushes and vines next to your home to create dead air spaces.
- Plant dense, low-lying trees and shrubbery on the north and northeast sides of your home to help protect your home against wind chill.
- Plant the right tree in the right place. Avoid potential tree and wire conflicts as the tree matures.
- Call JULIE before you dig at 811 or 800.892.0123!

Everyday Savings Tips ...

In addition to these home upgrades, don't forget to incorporate these daily best-practice tips:

General tips for around the house

- Turn off your lights when leaving a room.
- Use ceiling fans to circulate air in the room.
- Unplug any battery chargers or power adapters when not in use.
- Turn off your TV and other electronics when not being used.
- Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR qualified appliances/electronics.
- Replace your windows with ENERGY STAR qualified models.
- Close the flue damper tightly when not in use.
- Get rid of your secondary fridge and recycle it.
- Buy a new, energy-efficient model.
- Keep your refrigerator/freezer as full as possible without over-packing to allow air flow.

Bathroom

- Run your fan for 15 minutes after showering.
- Take a 10-minute shower rather than a bath.

Kitchen

- Scrape dishes instead of rinsing them before loading in the dishwasher.
- Run the dishwasher only when it's full, and use the air-dry option if available.
- Use the right-sized pot on stove burners.
- Cover pots and pans to keep heat in.
- Use your microwave or toaster oven to reheat or cook small portions.
- Use the microwave instead of an electric oven.
- Use glass cookware in the oven.
- Use cold water when operating your food/waste disposal.

Laundry

- Use the cold water setting on your washer for most loads.
- Wash a load of laundry only when you have a full load.
- Don't over-dry your clothes.
- Dry full loads, or reduce drying time for partial loads.
- Place a dry towel in the dryer with each load of wet clothes.
- Clean the dryer's lint filter after each load.

Be sure to visit
ActOnEnergy.com
for more information.