

FALL ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Take Advantage of Heat from the Sun

- Open curtains on the south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat the home. Close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.

Adjust the Temperature

- When you are home and awake, set the thermostat as low as is comfortable. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn the thermostat back to save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills. If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate setting or use a programmable thermostat specially designed for use with heat pumps.

Find and Seal Leaks

- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Cover Drafty Windows

- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.
- Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows.

Maintain Your Heating Systems

- Schedule routine service for home heating systems. Replace filters once a month.

Reduce Heat Loss from the Fireplace

- Keep the fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney. If the fireplace is never used, plug and seal the chimney flue.

Lower Water Heating Costs

- Keep the temperature of the water heater to the warm setting (120°F). This will not only save energy it will also help avoid scalding.

Turn off electronics that are not in use.

- Electronics that are not being used should be turned off completely to save energy.

