

ENERGY SAVING TIP OF THE MONTH

- May 20, 2014:** Decorate for a cooler home by hanging light-colored curtains that allow light to enter a room while blocking some of the sun's rays, and light-colored paint to reflect heat.
- April 7, 2014:** Roofing – reduce the strain on your air conditioner by applying reflective coating. This will help you save by decreasing the amount of heat coming into your home.
- March 24, 2014:** Block the sun from overheating your home. Inside, use shades, blinds and drapes. Outside, use awnings, trees and shrubs.
- March 3, 2014:** Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows that leak air.
- February 5, 2014:** Eliminate “hot spots” in your home by using high-performance windows, solar window screens and qualified window films.
- January 6, 2014:** Shorten Showers. Simply reducing that lingering time by a few minutes can save hundreds of gallons of hot water per month for a family of four. Showers account for 2/3 of your water heating costs.
- December 2, 2013:** Buy LED lights – LED Christmas lights use up to 90 percent less electricity than incandescent.
- November 18, 2013:** Many side dishes can be cooked in a microwave instead of the oven. Microwaves use just a fraction of the electricity that ovens do. A slow cooker can help ease the oven's burden as well.
- November 4, 2013:** Drive sensibly; aggressive driving such as speeding, and rapid acceleration and braking, wastes fuel.
- October 21, 2013:** You can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7°-10° for 8 hours a day from where you would normally set.
- October 7, 2013:** Using the power management settings on computers and monitors can cause significant savings.
- September 30, 2013:** Using an ENERGY STAR – labeled computer can save 30%-65% energy than computers without this designation, depending on usage.
- September 16, 2013:** Consider air-drying clothes on clothes lines or drying racks. Air drying is recommended by clothing manufacturers for some fabrics.
- September 9, 2013:** Install awnings on south- and west- facing windows.
- September 3, 2013:** Use higher R-value insulation, such as spray foam, on exterior walls and in cathedral ceilings to get more insulation with less thickness.
- August 19, 2013:** Apply sun-control or other reflective films on south-facing windows to reduce solar heat gain.
- August 12, 2013:** Insulate your electric hot-water storage tank but be careful not to cover the thermostat.
- July 22, 2013:** Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones that have pliable sealing gaskets.
- July 15, 2013:** Choose high-performance windows that have at least two panes of glass and a low-e coating.
- July 8, 2013:** Putting your laptop AC adapter on a power strip that can be turned off can maximize savings.
- July 1, 2013:** Clean the lint screen in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation and prevent fire hazards.
- June 24, 2013:** Install white window shades, drapes, or blinds to reflect heat away from the house and close curtains on south and west facing windows during the day.

- June 17, 2013:** Landscaping is a natural and beautiful way to keep your home cool in the summer. A well-placed tree, shrub or vine can deliver shade and reduce your energy bills.
- June 10, 2013:** 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.
- June 3, 2013:** Check your ducts for air leaks. If you use tape to seal your ducts use mastick, butyl tape, foil tape, or other heat-approved tapes.
- May 20, 2013:** Check your dryer vent to be sure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire.
- May 13, 2013:** Install a programmable thermostat to lower utility bills and manage your heating and cooling systems efficiently.
- May 6, 2013:** Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators; frost buildup decreases the energy efficiency of the unit.
- April 29, 2013:** Because outdoor lights are usually left on a long time, using CFLs or LEDs in these fixtures will save a lot of energy.
- April 22, 2013:** Consider purchasing ENERGY STAR-qualified fixtures. They are available in many styles and distribute light more efficiently and evenly than standard fixtures.
- April 15, 2013:** If you have an unshaded, south-facing location (such as a roof) on your property, consider installing a solar water heater.
- April 8, 2013:** Unplug appliances, or use a power strip and use the switch on the power strip to cut all power to the appliance, to avoid “vampire” loads.
- April 1, 2013:** Use small electric pans, toaster ovens, or convection ovens for small meals rather than your large stove or oven.
- March 25, 2013:** Keep your curtains or shades open to use daylight instead of turning on lights.
- March 18, 2013:** Install exterior or interior storm windows, which can reduce heat loss through the windows by 25-50%.
- March 11, 2013:** Avoid placing appliances that give off heat such as lamps or TVs near a thermostat.
- March 4, 2013:** Controls such as timers and photocells save electricity by turning lights off when not in use. Dimmers save electricity when used to lower light levels.
- February 25, 2013:** Drain a quart of water from your water tank every 3 months to remove sediment that impedes heat transfer and lowers the efficiency of your heater.
- February 18, 2013:** Install heat traps on the hot and cold pipes at the water heater to prevent heat loss. Most new water heaters have built-in heat traps.
- February 11, 2013:** Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they’re not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- February 4, 2013:** Periodically, use the long nozzle tip on your vacuum cleaner to remove the lint that collects below the lint screen slot of your clothes dryer.
- January 28, 2013:** Use a covered kettle or pan to boil water; it’s faster and uses less energy.
- January 14, 2013:** Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean; they will reflect the heat better and you will save energy.
- January 7, 2013:** Don’t keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37° to 40°F for the fresh food compartment and 5°F for the freezer section.
- December 31, 2012:** Scrape, don’t rinse, off large food pieces and bones. Soaking or pre-washing is generally only recommended in cases of burned or dried on food.
- December 24, 2012:** When remodeling, look for recessed light fixtures or “cans” which are rated for contact with insulation and are air tight (ICAT rated).
- December 17, 2012:** Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, or electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.

- December 10, 2012:** Installing solar-powered outdoor pathway lights is one of the easiest ways to use solar energy at home.
- December 3, 2012:** Wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible.
- November 26, 2012:** Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing.
- November 19, 2012:** Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- November 12, 2012:** During winter, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter and closed at night.
- November 5, 2012:** Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards, and other places where air may leak out.
- October 29, 2012:** Replace your old incandescent bulbs with ENERGY STAR-qualified bulbs for the best quality in savings.
- October 22, 2012:** Clean or replace filters on furnaces and air conditioners once a month or as recommended.
- October 15, 2012:** Consider buying a laptop for your next computer upgrade; laptops use much less energy than desktop computers.
- October 8, 2012:** If your home has single-pane windows, consider replacing them with double-pane windows with low-e or spectrally selective coatings.
- October 1, 2012:** Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.
- September 24, 2012:** Check to see that windows and doors are closed when heating or cooling your home.
- September 17, 2012:** Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
- September 10, 2012:** Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120°F.
- September 3, 2012:** Turn off all the lights when you leave a room.