

# Habits of Highly Energy Efficient People

## TIPS AND TRICKS TO IMPROVE YOUR EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency is extremely important as it not only has a positive benefit on our environment, it also helps you save money. If you increase the efficiency of your home, it directly reduces air pollution and lowers carbon emissions. The more efficient each home is, the lower the carbon footprint.

### APPLIANCES

#### COVER REFRIGERATED FOODS

Covering foods can reduce power consumption by limiting evaporation. Moist air takes more energy to cool which forces the compressor to work harder.

#### CLEAN REFRIGERATOR COILS

Vacuuming and dusting refrigerator coils just once a year will extend the life of your refrigerator and reduce energy usage. Clean coils help the compressor cool faster and run less frequently.

#### KEEP EXTRA FREEZER OR FRIDGE FULL

Cooling air requires more energy than cooling solids. Consider filling old milk or juice containers with water to help freezers run more efficiently. You will also have a supply of water in the event of an emergency available if needed.

#### UNPLUG SMALL APPLIANCES AND DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Use power strips to easily turn off devices such as tvs, gaming consoles, and stereos when not in use. Even in "standby" mode these devices can use as much energy as a 75 watt light bulb.



#### KEEP LIGHTS OFF IN ROOMS WHEN EMPTY

Turning just one standard 75 watt bulb off for *one hour a day* saves \$2.46 each year.

#### WASH CLOTHES IN COOL WATER

The most costly part of running your washing machine is heating the water for wash cycles. With the exception of all-white loads, there is little benefit to washing in hot water.

#### TURN DOWN THE WATER HEATER

Turning the temperature setting down to "warm" (~120 F) will not only save you energy, it will save your hands from scalding water!

### UTILITIES

#### RAISE YOUR THERMOSTAT SETTING IN THE SUMMER

You can save \$25 or more during summer months by raising the temperature to 78.



#### CLOSE BLINDS

Closing blinds helps keep sun out during the summer and heat in during the winter.



#### PLANT TREES

Deciduous trees - particularly on the west and south sides of your house - will shade your house on warmer days and allow your house to soak up the sun on cooler days.

#### CLEAN YOUR DRYER AND EXHAUST VENTS

When vents are clogged, devices must work harder and will subsequently use more energy.

#### REPLACE FILTERS

To maximize the efficiency of your furnace, the filter should be changed every three months.

### GENERAL

#### USE LESS

Wait until the dishwasher is full to run it, air-dry clothing when possible, and turn the tv off when you're not actively watching a program.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

If **300 million** inefficient bulbs were replaced, we could save about **\$1.5 billion** in annual energy bills and prevent **17 billion pounds** of annual greenhouse gas emissions.

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