



# Daily Conservation Tips

## How To Conserve Energy At Home

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1. **Energy Efficiency**: "Plugging" your home is a common phrase. It is also known as "air sealing", and is the most important way when taking steps to weatherize your home to increase its energy efficiency.
2. **Insulation**: Increasing the amount of insulation in various places in your home is a high priority. It helps stop the transfer of energy from one place to another. A good example is to always insulate your attic space. In the winter months helps prevent heat loss, and in summer months helps stop heat transfer from a hot attic to rooms in your house.
3. **Watch the Thermostat**: One of the easiest ways to conserve energy is simply to turn down your thermostat to a comfortable setting. Every degree you turn down your thermostat can save approx. 3 % less fuel in winter. In summer it is just the opposite, every degree you increase the setting gives you the same balance. This is called "differential". The closer you can keep the temperatures outside to match the temperatures inside your home will result in significant savings.
4. **Close Empty Rooms**: Shutting doors to those rooms not in use can result in additional savings. The less space you need to heat and cool the cheaper your monthly bills will be.
5. **Close Unused Vents**: This will result in more air flow to rooms in use. Allowing them to heat up and cool down much quicker. Thus allowing your furnace to run less.
6. **Kitchen Tips**: In winter try to utilize heat from gas or electric stove when cooking. This will help keep the thermostat down. In summer using your stove is very inefficient, you double the heat in your home and takes 3 times longer to cool the house and remove the heat.
7. **Cook More and Less Often**: The less times you turn on a guzzler like your gas or electric stove, the more you will save.
8. **Refrigerator**: This appliance runs 24/7, 365 days a year. Take everything you need out at once, this will allow the compressor to come on less times and let less-cool air out of your refrigerator. Also, check your control settings; the lower the settings the more efficient your refrigerator will run. Try to maintain average settings. Let hot food cool on the counter first before putting it in the fridge, this will allow the cooling cycle to operate less.
9. **Dishwasher**: Don't be lazy, try washing dishes by hand. Domestic hot water makes up nearly 25 % of your water utility bill. Fill the sink first, and then wash dishes. This can save a daily average of 1 -7 gallons of water per day.
10. **Automatic Dishwasher**: Rinse food off well. Automatic dishwashers will sense food in the wash cycle, and will continue to operate wasting up to 4 gallons of water per cycle.
11. **Washing Machines**: Always use cold water. Use Cold water detergents. This will allow you to save on heating hot water. Always try to do full loads of laundry, cutting down on the number of usages.
12. **Dryers**: Either electric or gas, this appliance is one of the least efficient appliances we have. Try hand drying or hanging up your clothes. In the winter try drying clothes in the basement. In summer hang clothing outside.

13. **Take Shorter Showers and Smaller Baths:** A 20 minute shower isn't needed for proper hygiene. Always consider a shower over a bath, this can save up to 30% water savings per shower, resulting in much less cost. The less water used the more savings.
14. **Buy Early:** Always try to pre-purchase gas or oil in the summer months if possible. Oil and gas can and usually are much cheaper in summer than in winter months.
15. **Other Tips:** If you can afford to; always convert from oil heat to gas heat. Oil prices have risen an average of 180% over the last 5 years alone. Natural gas has risen at a cost of 6% - 9 % over the last 5 years.
16. **Other Tips:** Try alternative heating sources: such as installing a wood burning stove, or pellet stove for winter months. This will far reduce your cost of heating in the winter.
17. **Other Tips:** Always unplug devices not in use. Although these devices are not on for use they do draw electricity. Such as toasters, microwaves, TV's, DVD's, VCR's, coffee makers, crock pots, irons and many more.