



No- to low-cost energy-saving tips

Hot summer weather can mean more energy use and higher energy bills. Plus, global events continue to cause spikes in market prices for energy and are affecting many customers' bills. Fortunately, there are some no- and low-cost ways to save energy around the home.

Change air filters regularly.

A dirty air filter makes an HVAC system work harder, which uses more energy.

Set your thermostat at the highest comfortable setting.

The smaller the difference between the inside and outside temperatures, the lower your energy usage and bill will be.

Close blinds, drapes and curtains during the hottest part of the day.

Keeping your blinds, drapes and curtains closed will help prevent the sun's rays from heating your house.

Use a ceiling fan in occupied rooms to supplement your air conditioning.

Make sure the fans are set to operate in a counterclockwise direction to push cool air down into living spaces.

Grill outdoors.

Using your electric oven and stovetop creates a lot of indoor heat. Help save energy by firing up the grill outdoors or prepare meals that don't require cooking.

Turn off unnecessary lights.

Be sure to turn off lights when you leave a room. Lights emit heat and cause your air conditioning system to work harder.

5 EASY ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS FOR YOUR HOME

These affordable projects can help you save energy and money on your summer bills.

Install switch and outlet seals.

Cooled air that escapes means your home's cooling system works harder. Installing seals behind electric switches and outlets on exterior walls helps keep the cool air in and warm air out.

Apply weatherstripping to doors.

Keep cooled air inside your home with self-adhesive weatherstripping on door frames.

Caulk around windows and doors.

Applying a bead of caulk around windows and doors is a simple way to keep cool air inside.

Replace showerhead.

You can reduce the amount of water you use by about 30% after replacing your showerhead with a low-flow model. This energy-saving feature saves water, of course, but also cuts down on energy usage if you have an electric water heater.

Install a faucet aerator.

An aerator on the kitchen faucet will use less water, conserve energy and lower your energy costs.

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