



Top Ten Easy and Inexpensive Ways to Save Energy in Your Home or Apartment!

Heating and Cooling

1. Seal Leaky Ductwork

Over 20% of the average home's heating and cooling bills go to duct leakage. Sealing your ducts with mastic can substantially decrease the amount of conditioned air wasted. For a homeowner, this may cost as little as \$10 and two to three hours of time.



2. Service Your Heating and Cooling (HVAC) System

This is like an annual tune-up for your car. Do it your self or pay a service technician \$75-\$100 to clean the unit and replace filters in the furnace and humidifier, insuring that the equipment is running at its most cost-efficient and optimum capacity.

3. Install a Programmable Thermostat

Programmable thermostats automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping. When used properly, a programmable thermostat with four temperature settings can save up to \$150 a year in energy costs.

Lighting and Appliances

4. Replace Incandescent Light Bulbs with CFL's

Here's a bright idea! If everyone in NC replaced one incandescent light bulb with a Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb (CFL) it would save 1.5 Million kWh's each day. CFL's provide high quality light output, use 25% of the energy, and last six to ten times longer than standard incandescent light bulbs.



5. Buy Appliances/Electronics With The Energy Star® Label

Energy Star certified refrigerators use 15% less energy, dishwashers use 25% less, and clothes washers use up to 50% less.



Weatherization

6. Add Weather Stripping Around Doors and Windows

Use of door thresholds, window caulking, and plastic window film could save up to 20% with an investment of as little as \$25.

7. Properly Insulate Attics and Roofs

Heat rises and if there isn't enough insulation in the space above, your money is literally going out the roof. Most ceilings/attic spaces should have at least an R38 rating or about ten inches of insulation.

Hot Water Savings

8. Change Faucets and Showerheads to Low-Flow

A ten-minute shower can use less water than a full bath. With a new 2.5 gal-per-minute (low-flow) showerhead, a ten-minute shower will use ~25 gal of water. A new showerhead will also save energy; up to \$145 each year on electricity.



9. Install a Tankless Water Heater

By creating hot water on demand as opposed to continuously heating stored water, homeowners can save hundreds of dollars over time.

10. Wash Laundry With Cold Water When Possible

To save water, try to wash full loads or if you must wash a partial load, reduce the level of water appropriately. Washing full loads can save you more than 3,400 gallons of water each year. Additionally, washing with cold water can save the average household up to \$400 annually.

For more information on how you can be part of the solution contact:

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