ENERGY-EFFICIENCY TIPS

USE ENERGY WISELY (WINTER)

Before the heating season begins, have a qualified contractor provide the following services:

- Replace furnace filters
- Clean and lubricate gas appliances
- Adjust any pilots and burners
- Check heat exchangers for cracks, rust, and corrosion
- Check vents and pipes for any obstructions
- Check proper ventilation of gas appliances
- Check for sharp blue flame produced in the gas appliances

During the cold season:

- Set thermostat between 65-70 degrees when home and 58 degrees when away for more than four hours
- Install a programmable thermostat
- Close vents and doors in unused rooms
- Set water heater temperature at 120 degrees
- Install water flow restrictors in showerheads and faucets
- Run the washing machine and clothes dryer with a full load
- On sunny days, open draperies and blinds to allow in the sun's warmth

KEEP COLD AIR OUT (WINTER)

Seal leaks around doors, windows, and other openings such as pipes or ducts, with caulk or weather-stripping.

USE ENERGY WISELY (SUMMER)

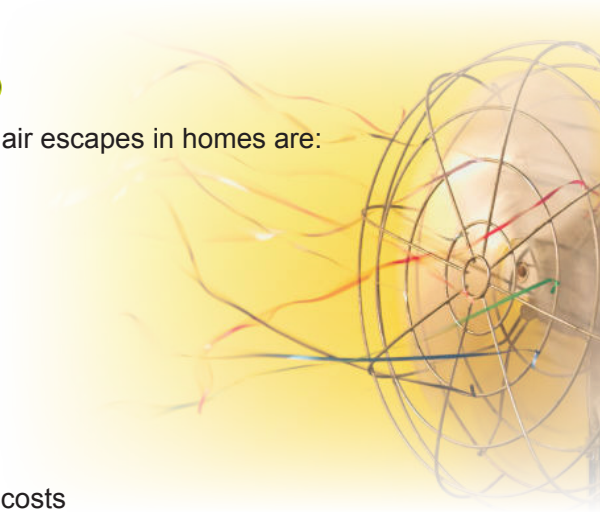
During the warm season:

- Set thermostat to 78 degrees or higher and 85 degrees or higher when away for more than four hours
- Close the windows on very hot days and reopen at night to let cool air in
- Cook early in the day or use gas grill
- Use fans to generate air movement
- Use drapes, shutters, awnings, and shade trees to keep sunlight out
- Open doors and windows during breezy days to let cool air in
- Turn off all appliances and lights when not in use
- Wash dishes at night
- Avoid using large quantities of water during peak hours
- Switch pool filters, sweeper operations, and spa filters to off-peak hours
- Keep spa or pool covered when not in use
- Plant two mature trees on the west side of your home and one tree on the east side

KEEP COLD AIR IN (SUMMER)

The most common places where air escapes in homes are:

- Floors, walls, and ceilings
- Ducts
- Fireplace
- Plumbing penetrations
- Doors and windows
- Fans and vents



FOUR BASIC COMPONENTS TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY

1. Economize: Turn off all appliances or lights when not in use
2. Repair Leaks: Simply installing weather stripping and caulking leaky doors and windows can save on energy costs
3. Invest in Energy-Saving Improvements: Replace appliances with Energy Star® appliances
4. Install Energy-Saving Devices: Clean furnace filters once a month, use fluorescent light bulbs, install insulation on your water heater, and use low flow shower heads

CLOTHES WASHING & DRYING

- Wash full loads or adjust the water level to fit the size of the load
- Save up to 10 percent on water heating costs by washing and rinsing full loads in cold water
- Dry full loads, but do not overload
- Separate lightweight and heavy clothes for energy efficiency
- Clean lint filter before drying each load
- Dry two or more loads in a row to take advantage of the heat still in the dryer
- Line-dry clothes when possible
- Do not over-dry clothes as it wastes energy and reduces the life of the clothes
- Remove any obstructions from the dryer's vent
- Periodically rinse the lint filter with warm water and soap

DISH WASHING

- Wash full loads in the dishwasher (uses less water and energy than washing them in the sink)
- Select the "energy saver" option for the drying cycle, or let the dishes air dry
- Load dishes in their proper locations to ensure maximum cleaning efficiency
- Check and clean the dishwasher drain as needed (food waste build up can cause dishwasher to use more energy)
- When purchasing a new dishwasher, consider the Energy Star® dishwasher with energy-saving settings

WATER HEATING

- Take shorter, cooler showers rather than baths (bathing can account for over 50 percent of hot water usage)
- Install low-flow, water-saving showerheads to cut water use and save up to 10 percent on heating costs
- Insulate exterior, uncovered hot water pipes
- Fix leaky faucets (one drop of hot water per second can waste 2,500 gallons per year)

COOKING

- Do not preheat oven for foods such as casseroles and broiled items
- Do not open the oven door while cooking (loss of up to 50 degrees in temperature and energy waste)
- Cover pots when cooking
- Use pots and pans that fit the burners, which will absorb more energy and reduce heat loss
- Cook several meals at the same time
- Keep oven and burners clean for energy efficiency
- NEVER use the range for room heating!