

SAVE ENERGY TIPS

We want to help you save and understand how to use energy wisely.

Here are some tips to help you save energy at home.

LIGHTING

Make the switch from incandescent bulbs to light emitting diode (LED) bulbs to reduce your energy consumption and save money.

Five easy steps to choose the right bulb:

Step 1: Look for the ENERGY STAR label. It confirms that the bulb you are selecting is certified to save energy.

Step 2: Where is the light bulb going? Confirm what kind of bulb you require.

Step 3: Look for lumens on the lighting facts label. Lumens indicate light output and watts indicate energy consumed. An ENERGY STAR bulb will provide the same amount of brightness and consume fewer watts.

Step 4: Pick your colour. Energy-efficient bulbs come in a variety of colours. The light appearance (colour) can be found on the lighting facts label.

Step 5: Buy it and install it. If you think your bulb is too expensive, think about how much you will save in the long term.

» **Use LED holiday lights!**

ENERGY HOGS

Eliminate energy hogs. They are devices that use electricity even when they are turned off, and together may account for up to 20 per cent of your electricity bill.

- » Turn off computer, lights, TVs and other appliances when they are not in use.
- » Use motion sensors and dimmer switches.
- » Use a programmable thermostat to manage your heating. Spiking your heat uses more energy.
- » Space heaters consume a lot of energy! If you require one to heat small spaces, consider buying an energy efficient space heater or using a blanket.
- » Hot tubs use a fairly large amount of energy. Good insulation will significantly improve your hot tub's energy efficiency.
 - » Ensure the tub's insulation is continuous, without gaps, and that it covers the hot water pipe entirely.
 - » Heat rises, so your hot tub cover can have a huge impact on your heating costs. Approximately 50 per cent of heat loss comes from the top of the tub. Invest in an energy efficient cover.

SAVE ELECTRICITY CHECKLIST

There is a lot you can do to make your home more energy efficient.

Use this checklist to find ways to reduce your energy consumption – and start saving money now!

LIGHTING

- Use LED bulbs and LED holiday lights
- Match light bulb wattage and lumens to your lighting needs

LIGHTING AND POWER CONTROLS

- Use motion sensors, timers and dimmer switches
- Use “smart” power strips – it will turn off the power when devices are not in use

APPLIANCES/ELECTRONICS

- Unplug appliances and electronics that are not in use
- Update appliances with energy efficient models – look for the ENERGY STAR label
- Place your refrigerator and freezer away from heat sources
- The ideal temperature for food safety and energy efficiency are: 3°C / 38°F for the fridge, and -18°C / 0°F for the freezer.

COOLING/HEATING

- Ensure your air conditioner’s filter is clean; replace it monthly, or as needed
- Make sure your air conditioner is in the shade; it will use 10 per cent less electricity
- Have your air conditioning system checked annually to ensure it’s working efficiently
- Check your furnace filter monthly and replace it when it appears dirty
- The “auto” thermostat setting on central heating systems may save you money. Reduce your thermostat setting at night and/or when you are away

WASHER/DRYER

- Wash your clothes in cold water and hang dry items on a clothesline
- Empty your dryer’s lint trap after every load to increase the efficiency of your dryer
- Use the auto-dry sensor to cut down on drying time

OVEN

- Open the oven door as little as possible. Your oven loses 25 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit each time you open the door, making it work harder to maintain its temperature
- Use small appliances like a microwave/toaster oven when reheating small quantities of food. You will lose up to 50 per cent less energy compared to conventional cooking.