

# Seven Easy Ways to Make Your Home More Energy Efficient

Wasteful energy consumption can cost homeowners thousands of dollars per year. Fortunately, there are many high-scale and budget-friendly approaches to amending this issue and making your home more energy efficient.

The tips below may seem surprisingly simple, at least in terms of how much you can save each year. It's amazing how far some new light bulbs or a filter change can go toward reducing the cost of your energy bill – especially during particularly hot or cold months.

Here are seven ways to save money on energy costs:

## Make Nighttime “Lights Off” Time

A device left on overnight here and there won't make much of a dent in your electric bill, but consistently leaving your computer on standby or your TV blaring throughout the night can add up significantly. Make a list of devices in your home that consume energy and identify whether they are on during the night. In the instance of a computer, check for energy-saving settings that automatically shut your computer off if it idles for a certain period of time.

## Change All Filters

From your air conditioning to your furnace, ensure all systems that use a filter are cleaned regularly. A blocked filter for any of these machines can result in it working harder, consequently using more energy. This is a very simple action, but it can save you money and help your system work much more efficiently.

## **Landscape With Energy in Mind**

During the summer, homeowners can increase energy efficiency by planting trees and plants to serve as shading. If you place them in close proximity to your home's windows, they can help keep out the heat, so you won't have to spend nearly as much on air conditioning.

## **Use Energy-Minded Products**

Fluorescent light bulbs use about one-third the energy of standard bulbs. Replacing all your home's bulbs with energy-saving ones could result in substantial savings.

## **Update Old Electrical Appliances**

Although your budget may not allow for an immediate upgrade, the tips above can help save on electrical costs. Those savings could be used to update old electrical appliances, replacing them with energy efficient upgrades. The impact of a new appliance can be massive. For example, 2001's top-rated refrigerator uses 40% more energy than today's top-tier refrigerators.

## **Insulate Wherever Possible**

One of the simplest and most cost-effective ways to save on energy consumption is to ensure windows and other locations in your house are correctly insulated. If any unnecessary heat or cold is seeping through cracks or gaps, it's wasting your AC or heat.

Also, be sure to caulk any doors, windows, holes, and cracks that may be letting cold or hot air seep through. This includes electrical outlets, which are prone to holes since they may lead to outside walls.

Also, if you have a fireplace, it's advised to install glass doors. That way, chilly gusts don't enter your living space through the chimney.

## **Use Ceiling Fans Wisely**

Ceiling fans have more power than you may imagine. They spread hot or cold air around considerably, aiding heating or cooling systems to the point where significantly less energy is used.

Run ceiling fans counterclockwise to help circulate cold air back into a room and clockwise for warm air. This is a simple yet effective trick that can significantly increase a heating or cooling system's energy efficiency.

These seven tips can help you make your residence a more energy-efficient one, in both the cold winter and hot summer months. You'll start saving money, and you'll be helping conserve important resources, too.

### **Sources:**

- *Incandescent, LED, Fluorescent, Compact Fluorescent and Halogen Bulbs* – Consumer Energy Center
- *Making Your Home Energy Efficient* – House of Home