

# Green Light's Energy Saving Tips

## Washing/Drying

### WASH CLOTHES IN COLD WATER

Cold water prevents shrinking, fading, running colors and wrinkles. You can save 90% of the energy it takes to operate your washing machine.

### WASH ONLY FULL LOADS OF LAUNDRY

Schedule washes so that a complete job can be done with a few cycles of the machine carrying its full capacity.

### AIR DRY YOUR CLOTHES

Dryers use about 40,000W —enough energy to power more than 2,000 CFLs.

### IN CASE YOU NEED TO USE A DRYER, CLEAN DRYER FILTERS

Clean the lint filter in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation and prevent fires.

### CONSIDER BUYING NEW WASHING MACHINE

Front loaders cut water use by nearly 40%. A full-size horizontal axis washer uses half the water of a typical top-loading washer.

## Heating and cooling

### USE CEILING FANS AT LOW SPEED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION IN WINTER

A switch on the fan allows you to switch the direction of the blades from counter-clockwise to clockwise. This produces a gentle updraft, forcing warm air near the ceiling down into the living space.

### SET YOUR THERMOSTAT TO 68°F DURING THE WINTER

Turning down your thermostat to 68°F, or

the lowest comfortable temperature, will help you reduce the energy it takes to heat up your house and therefore lower your energy costs.

### SET YOUR THERMOSTAT TO 78°F DURING THE SUMMER

Set your thermostat as high as possible and use your ceiling fan to use less energy in summer months. When the weather is mild, turn off the AC and open the windows.

### CHECK, CLEAN, OR REPLACE AC FILTERS

Cleaning or replacing air filters once a month during periods of high use, even in the winter, will insure proper air ow, promote better health, increase eciency, and save money.

### EACH YEAR DRAIN A BUCKET OF WATER FROM THE BOTTOM OF WATER HEATER TANK

This gets rid of sediment, which can waste energy by "blocking"the water in the tank.

### BUY A WATER HEATER INSULATION KIT

For older water heaters, buy a water heater insulation kit, which reduces the amount of heat lost through the walls of the tank.

### WEATHER-STRIP & CAULK AROUND ALL ENTRANCE DOORS AND WINDOWS

This will limit air leaks that can waste 15-30% of heating and cooling energy.

### USE YOUR BLINDS AND CURTAINS TO CONTROL HEAT ENERGY FROM THE SUN

In warm weather, close your blinds and curtains during the hottest part of the day. In cold weather, keep curtains open during daylight hours to take advantage of the sun's warmth.

## Dishwasher

### RUN YOUR DISHWASHER WHEN IT IS FULL

A lot of water a day can be saved by running the dishwasher only when it is full.

### DO NOT PRE-RINSE YOUR DISHES

Tests show pre-rinsing does not improve dishwasher cleaning, and you'll save as much as 20 gallons of water per load.

### BUY AN ENERGY STAR DISHWASHER

Save more than \$25 a year in energy costs by upgrading to a more energy efficient model.

## Refrigerator

### KEEP YOUR REFRIGERATOR FULL

If you keep your refrigerator full, the food will use less energy to stay cold. Don't overstuff your fridge either. Good air circulation cools and controls humidity.

## Range oven

### USE THE CORRECT SIZE POT ON STOVE BURNERS

A six-inch pot on an eight-inch burner wastes more than 40% of the burner's heat

### BEGIN COOKING ON HIGHEST HEAT

After the liquid begins to boil, lower the heat control settings and allow food to simmer until fully cooked.

### REARRANGE OVEN SHELVES

Rearrange oven shelves before turning your oven on and do not peek at food in the oven. Every time you

open the oven door, 25°F to 50°F of heat is lost.

## Sink

### TURN OFF THE TAP WHILE YOU ARE SHAVING OR BRUSHING YOUR TEETH

This helps you save water you are not using. It takes energy to pump and treat water that comes into your house.

### REPAIR LEAKY FAUCETS

This helps you save hot water and electricity you are not using. Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 8 gallons of water per day.

### INSTALL AERATORS

Aerators add air to the flow of water to help save water without losing pressure. It can save you as much as 1 gallon every minute.

## Shower and toilet

### INSTALL A LOW-FLOW SHOWER HEAD

Low-flow shower heads cost as little as \$15 and save about 3,000 gallons of water per person each year.

Some models have a button so you can shut off the water while you soap up without losing the temperature.

### TAKE 6 MINUTE SHOWERS

This can save you more than \$75 each year on energy costs.

### FIX A LEAKY TOILET

A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day.

## Outlet

### USE A POWER STRIP

About 10% of the electricity you buy is wasted when you leave things plugged in when they are not in use. This is called "Standby Power." Use a power strip that you can turn off when electronics are not in use.

### UNPLUG BATTERY CHARGERS AND POWER ADAPTERS

Unplug any battery chargers or power adapters when electronics are fully charged or disconnected from the charger.

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