

# Utility Savings Tips



- **Get a programmable thermostat.** It can adjust room temperature while you're sleeping or when away from the house for half a day or longer.
- **Lower your hot water heater's temperature setting.** Also, install a thermal insulation jacket.
- **Use ceiling fans.** Fans cost just 1¢ an hour to operate; air-conditioning costs up to 58¢ an hour. In the winter you can run a ceiling fan in the reverse direction to circulate warm air near the ceiling down to living areas.
- **Change air-conditioning and heating filters regularly.** Dirty filters make the units work harder.
- **Insulate your home adequately.** Increase insulation, particularly in the attic. Not only is the attic usually the easiest place to insulate, but it's where you will see the greatest benefit in energy savings.
- **Have your ducts checked** to make sure there are no leaks. Leaking ducts can cost you hundreds of dollars more each year on your heating and cooling bills.
- **Use your vents.** You can control where the heat and air goes. Try closing a few doors to rooms you don't use, along with the vents (unless you have a heat pump. Closing vents could harm the heat pump).
- **Caulk, seal, and weather-strip** all seams, cracks, and openings to the outside. You can save 10% or more on your energy bill by reducing the air leaks in your home.
- **Use kitchen, bath, and other ventilating fans for short periods of time.** In just 1 hour, these fans can pull out a houseful of warmed or cooled air.
- **When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed.** Keeping the damper open is like having a 48-inch window open during the winter.
- **Wash clothes in cold water whenever possible.** Cold water gets most clothes clean. Plus, clothing will fade less and have fewer wrinkles.
- **Use fluorescent light bulbs.** They use about ¼ of the energy as traditional bulbs and last for years.
- **Get levelized billing** for the same billing amount each month.

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*Caring financial professionals*

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