

Easy Ways To Conserve Energy

Start with these easy steps that may reduce your energy costs, improve your comfort, and allow you to do your part when the state is experiencing energy shortages.

- Use nonessential appliances such as clothes washers and dryers during off-peak hours (between noon or after 6:00 p.m.)
- Close drapes and blinds to keep out direct sunlight during hot periods.
- Avoid using evaporative coolers or humidifiers at the same time an air conditioning is running.
- Run swimming pool equipment for the minimum amount of time, and during off-peak hours (before noon or after 6:00 p.m.).
- Limit the opening of a refrigerator.
- Stop hot, outdoor air from entering your home and eliminate the loss of cooled air with weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors.
- Clean or replace your air conditioner's filter regularly to help it run more effectively.
- Keep your air conditioning thermostat no lower than 78 degrees on hot days.
- During cold days and nights, set your heating thermostat no higher than 60 degrees.
- Dirty coils on the back or bottom front of your refrigerator can make it work harder than necessary. Check and clean the coils regularly, especially during the summer. See your appliance owner's manual for maintenance instructions.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents. These come in various shapes and sizes that fit regular, screw-in lamps and light fixtures, can last up to 10 times as long as old-fashioned bulbs, and produce less heat while using only a quarter of the electricity.
- Insulate your hot water piping from the water heater to the wall or ceiling pipe penetration. Wrap the tank in an insulating blanket if the water heater's energy factor is less than 0.59. Remember to follow the installation instructions.