



powerWISER™ Tips

Interested in learning simple, energy and cost-saving techniques?

This guide is designed to help you, your family, friends and neighbours reduce electricity bills without making big investments.

To make it easier, each tip includes symbols that indicate how much electricity you might save, how much effort it takes, if you need to buy anything, and if there are additional benefits:

Electric hot water tanks

- If your water comes out steaming hot and you rarely run out of hot water, lower the temperature setting to a safer level **ONLY AFTER** turning off the power.
- Wrap your hot water tank with an insulating blanket, especially if it is in an unheated space, and insulate the hot and cold water pipes leaving the tank.
- Drain a bucket of water from the bottom of your tank once a year.
- Turn the tank off at the breaker if you are going to be away for more than a few days.

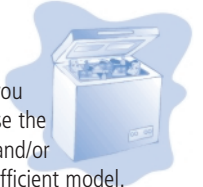
Space heating and cooling

- Install programmable, digital thermostats and program them to lower the temperature when you are not home or are sleeping.
- If you know your house is too drafty, seal up the cracks and holes that let hot air **OUT** during the winter and muggy air **IN** during the summer. Caulking and weatherstripping are cheap and effective ways to save energy but should not be used in homes with inadequate ventilation.
- Use plastic window film or removable caulking on windows you won't open during the winter. You can remove both in the spring and re-use them in the fall.
- Cover unused windows with two layers of aluminum foil bubble wrap when it gets too hot or cold outside.
- Use heavy curtains, especially ones with insulated liners, that go all the way down to the floor. Ensure they won't interfere with heaters or vents.
- In the winter, open curtains during the day to let in the sun and close them at night to keep the heat in.
- In the summer, open your windows at night and close them and any curtains during the day to keep the sun out.
- Use fans instead of air conditioners. If you must use an air conditioner, turn the temperature setting up so that it runs the least amount of time possible.



Fridges and freezers

- Owning a second fridge may be costing you several hundred dollars per year. If you use the fridge occasionally, consider removing it and/or replacing it with a smaller, more energy efficient model.
- Turn up the temperature to the point that food still lasts as long as before. If applicable, turn **OFF** the butter warmer and turn **ON** the energy saver switch.
- Vacuum the coils on the back of or under the fridge, make sure there is enough air space between it and the wall, and clean the door seal so that it closes tightly.
- Don't overfill the fridge but keep the freezer as full as possible; when you need to defrost food, put it in your fridge, instead of on the counter.
- Don't let frost in the freezer exceed 1/4 inch. Defrost it regularly but don't use a sharp object to remove ice as you could puncture the walls.



Taps and showerheads

- Install low-flow showerheads and encourage everyone to take short showers instead of filling up the bathtub with hot water.
- Tighten leaky taps or replace the gasket if necessary, especially for hot water taps.
- Install a faucet aerator to save on both water and water heating costs.



Laundry

- Use the cold or warm water setting on the washer whenever possible and always rinse with cold water.
- Dry your clothes outside or use an indoor rack set near a sunny window that you can open during the summer. The extra humidity will make your house more comfortable in the winter.
- If you use a clothes dryer, clean the lint trap after every load and make sure the vent isn't blocked. Add a dry towel to help spread the moisture around and dry similar thickness clothes together.
- Avoid putting really wet clothes in the dryer. Run the spin cycle again or wring them out by hand. If drying more than one load, do the second load right away so the dryer doesn't cool down.



LEGEND

- larger savings
- moderate savings
- smaller savings
- easy to do
- you need to keep doing this
- you need to buy something
- health and comfort benefits

Dishwashing



- \$ A** Washing dishes by hand in a sink (without the water running) and rinsing them in a basin of cold water is the most energy-efficient way.
- \$ C -** If you use a dishwasher, scrape excess food off dishes, don't pre-rinse, use the shortest cycle (econo) only when the dishwasher is full, and air dry dishes instead of using the heating element.

Cooking



- \$ B -** Use a microwave or a toaster oven instead of the oven to heat up, toast or cook small amounts of food.
- \$ C -** Use an electric kettle for boiling water, instead of a pot on the stove. Boil only as much water as you need each time.
- \$ C +** If buying an electric kettle, get one with a water level indicator as it makes boiling the right amount of water easier.
- \$ C** Turn off the stove top or oven before you're finished cooking as the retained heat will keep things cooking for several minutes.
- \$ C** Use pots the same size as the element, always use covers, and keep the trays underneath clean so that they reflect the heat up towards the pots.

Lighting

- \$ B +** Use compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) in fixtures that are on more than four hours per day. They are more expensive to buy but will save you money in the long-term.
- \$ C +** Use non-dimming motion sensors or timers for exterior lights instead of leaving them on all night.
- \$ C +** Use lower wattage lights where you need them instead of lighting up the whole room.
- \$ C -** Take advantage of natural light as much as possible.
- \$ C +** Use LED holiday lights instead of incandescent ones.



Other things

- \$ A +** Avoid using electric space heaters.
- \$ A +** If you have a pool, put the pumps on timers so they don't run more than they should.
- \$ A +** If you have an outdoor hot tub, make sure it is well insulated, turn the temperature down, and put it on a timer.
- \$ C -** Unplug power adaptors when not in use because they keep using electricity even when the appliance is turned off.
- \$ C -** Devices that can be turned on with a remote, have digital clocks, or a little coloured light can use up to 50 watts all the time, so unplug them when not in use or shut them off with a power bar.

How much does it cost to use appliances?

The following calculation will provide you with the approximate annual cost of using your appliance. Actual costs may vary, depending on the appliance operating characteristics.



1 Multiply the watts (W) displayed on your appliance nameplate by the number of hours it operates per year to get watt-hours (Wh)

2 Divide by 1,000 to get kilowatt-hours (kWh)

3 Multiply by \$0.10 to get the estimated cost in dollars

(Your average electricity cost is currently about \$0.10 per kWh, but there are fixed fees that you pay regardless of how much you consume or conserve.)

For example, the cost to operate a 5 watt digital clock that is plugged in all the time = 5 watts x 24 hours x 365 days ÷ 1,000 x \$0.10 cents = \$4.38 per year.

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