

Looking for ways to save energy and money at home?

Check out the 8 things all homeowners should do to cost effectively lower their energy bills.



Install and set a programmable thermostat. Save an estimated 10 percent per year on heating and cooling costs by using a programmable thermostat.



Use sunlight to your advantage. Choose window treatments that allow you to use natural light while reducing heat loss and gain.



Switch to ENERGY STAR appliances, fans and electronics. Using ENERGY STAR certified products throughout your home could save nearly \$750 over the lifetime of the products.



Choose energy-saving lighting. Replacing 5 of your home's most frequently used lights with energy-efficient ENERGY STAR bulbs could save you \$75 a year in energy costs.



Use an electronic power strip for your electronic equipment. Help reduce phantom loads -- and save up to \$100 a year -- by plugging electronic devices into a power strip and turn it off when not in use.



Reduce energy for water heating. Take simple steps -- like lowering your water heater's temperature and installing low-flow showerheads -- to reduce your water heating bills.



Hire a professional to maintain your heating and cooling system. Check and replace your air filters regularly and arrange for annual maintenance with a qualified technician.



Consult a home performance contractor to achieve large savings. These professionals will do a comprehensive audit of your whole house using special tools to measure home energy efficiency.