

HOW TO \$AVE ENERGY AND MONEY AT HOME

CHANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE AND HABITS FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

You can easily reduce energy use, without spending a lot of money or sacrificing comfort, by changing how you manage **the biggest energy users in your home: the HVAC system, the water heater and the refrigerator.**

❑ WATCH THAT THERMOSTAT

Save \$90 per degree per year

- Turn off your AC or raise the thermostat to 85 degrees when you're away for two hours or more.
- Every degree higher than 78 cuts your cooling bill by 3 percent.
- A programmable thermostat is key. It remembers to raise the temperature for you when you leave for the day, and to cool down the house before you come home.

❑ LET THE AIR FLOW

- Move furniture and draperies away from return air vents.
- Good airflow improves your comfort and prevents your AC from running longer than needed

❑ GO FLUORESCENT

Save \$7 per bulb per year

- Compact fluorescent bulbs use 60-70 percent less electricity, generate less heat and last up to 10 times longer than regular bulbs.
- Install daylight sensors for outdoor lights.
- Use task lights instead of lighting up the entire room.

❑ UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

(Appliances use energy even when turned off.)

- Use power strips in home offices, entertainment centers and other areas and turn off the strip when not in use.
- Purchase a "Smart Strip" that keeps power to items like your DVR that need to stay on.
- Choose ENERGY STAR products (some use as little as one watt of power when on stand-by).
- Use timers on surge protectors when they are difficult to access.

❑ USE SHADE TO YOUR BEST ADVANTAGE

- Close shades on windows hit by direct sunlight.
- Open shades on other windows to use existing daylight.
- Plant trees to shade south and west-facing windows. Trees can reduce indoor air temperatures by as much as 20 degrees and cut cooling costs by up to 40 percent.
- Close shades on windows hit by direct sunlight.
- Shading your outdoor AC unit saves 10 percent on cooling costs.

❑ LOAD IT UP BEFORE YOU TURN IT ON

- Run washing machines and dishwashers with a full load.
- Choose cold or warm water instead of hot when doing your laundry. Clothes will last longer, too.
- Choose the air dry cycle on your dishwasher for energy savings.

❑ CONTROL YOUR WATER HEATER

Save \$45 a year

- Set the temperature no higher than 120 degrees for energy savings.

❑ CHANGE YOUR AIR FILTER

- Replace your air filter regularly, according to the package instructions. Dirty filters make your HVAC system work harder and run longer than necessary.
- The quality of air filters is measured in MERVs. Austin Energy recommends a MERV rating of 6 or higher.

❑ USE FANS TO COOL OFF

- Fans can make you feel 5 degrees cooler, allowing you to set your thermostat higher.
- Be sure to turn fans off when you leave the room.

❑ CHECK YOUR FRIDGE TEMPERATURE

Save up to 25 percent

- Set the refrigerator temperature between 36 and 38 degrees.
- Set the freezer temperature between 0 and 5 degrees.

❑ COOK SMART

- Use the microwave, which uses up to 70 percent less energy, cooks 75 percent faster and produces less heat than an electric or gas oven.
- Avoid turning on the oven during the heat of the day.



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AUSTINENERGY.COM, 512-972-7827