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ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR YOUR HOME

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CONNECTICUT

Empowering you to make
smart energy choices

Are you trying to make smart energy choices? We are here to help you save energy and money every day. Follow as many of these easy home energy saving tips as you can and share them with your friends and family.

Lighting

1. Turn off lights whenever you leave a room or don't need them.
2. When you're away from home, use a timer or mobile application to turn lights on and off automatically.
3. Replace your incandescent light bulbs, both indoors and outdoors, with ENERGY STAR® certified light-emitting diodes (LEDs), which use up to 90% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs. For additional savings, use dimmable LEDs.

TAKE ACTION!

Purchase discounted energy-saving lighting products where you see the Energize CT logo at many participating retail stores.

4. Use task lighting over desks, tables and workbenches.
5. Take advantage of natural light whenever possible.
6. When turning off a dimmer switch, make sure it's completely in the off position – not just turned down.
7. Use LEDs in holiday lighting displays. They use 90% less energy and last up to 50,000 hours.

Washer & Dryer

8. If you're replacing your washer, choose an ENERGY STAR model with front-loading or horizontal axis features.
9. Wash clothes in cold or warm water rather than hot, and rinse in cold water.
10. Fill your washer and dryer to capacity whenever possible. Wash smaller loads using lower water levels.
11. Hang your clothes to dry whenever possible.
12. Clean your dryer's lint filter after each load, and clean the outside vent regularly.

Dishwasher

13. When buying a dishwasher, look for an ENERGY STAR certified model with features like air power drying and overnight drying settings.
14. Scrape dishes instead of rinsing them prior to loading. If you prefer rinsing, use a sink or pot filled with cold water, rather than hot running water.
15. Be sure that the dishwasher is full, but not overloaded.
16. Keep all drains and filters clean.
17. Use the air-drying option instead of heat drying. Or better yet, turn off the drying cycle, open the dishwasher and let the contents air dry.

Oven, Range & Refrigerator

18. Don't line oven racks with foil. It blocks heat flow.
19. Use a kettle rather than a pot to boil water. If using a pot, keep the lid on.
20. Grill all year to lower energy use and reduce demand on cooling systems produced by ovens.
21. Allow frozen meats to thaw completely before cooking.

TAKE ACTION!

Looking for the most energy-efficient appliances? Check for the ENERGY STAR label on appliances and electronics to get energy and money savings from the products you purchase.

22. Leave several inches of space behind and on the sides of your refrigerator so air can circulate around the unit.
23. Clean underneath or in the back of your refrigerator or freezer periodically.
24. Check for air leaks by shutting a piece of paper in the refrigerator door. If you can remove the paper without resistance, cold air may be escaping.
25. Let hot foods cool before placing them in the refrigerator. (Cooked meats, however, should be refrigerated immediately.)
26. Keep your refrigerator temperature setting just low enough to chill milk (38°-40° F) and the freezer low enough to keep ice cream hard (around 5° F).

- 27.** Don't open the refrigerator door unnecessarily, or keep it open for prolonged periods. Open the refrigerator when cycling. Opening it when it is not cycling causes it to cycle more and costs more money to run.

- 28.** For older refrigerators, remove frost periodically.

Small Appliances

- 29.** Look for the ENERGY STAR label when shopping for electronics and appliances.

- 30.** Unplug electronics when not in use, or use advanced power strips to eliminate any 'standby' power that many devices consume even when turned off. An inexpensive watt-meter can also be purchased to determine how much energy devices are using.

Dehumidifiers

- 31.** Decrease moisture to prevent mold and mildew. Choose an ENERGY STAR rated dehumidifier model.

Water Use

- 32.** Turn off the tap when you shave or brush your teeth.
- 33.** Set your hot water heater at 120° F. (Many are preset at 140°).
- 34.** Replace washers on leaky faucets. A steady drip can add up to many gallons wasted every month.
- 35.** Install low-flow showerheads and sink aerators.

Insulation

- 36.** Install wall-outlet and switch-plate gaskets to reduce the flow of cold air.

- 37.** Install storm windows, or purchase window insulator kits to reduce drafts.
- 38.** Be sure your home's insulation meets U.S. Department of Energy specifications for your geographic area, and that ceilings, walls, and floors over unfinished crawl spaces are all properly insulated.

Windows

- 39.** Install triple pane or ENERGY STAR certified windows.

TAKE THE FIRST STEPS!

Sign up for Home Energy SolutionsSM – let our energy experts come to your home and make on-the-spot improvements including air sealing to reduce drafts and save money. Learn from the experts how to improve the comfort of your home while saving energy and money with better insulation, efficient heating and cooling and affordable payment plans. Call 1-877-WISE USE today or visit GetEnergySmart.com to get started.

- 40.** Insulate hot water pipes.
- 41.** Install storm doors to reduce heat transfer to the outside.

Heating & Cooling

- 42.** Dust or vacuum radiator surfaces and vents frequently and keep them unobstructed.
- 43.** Keep insulated drapes or shades closed in summer and open on sunny winter days. Close curtains or drapes on winter nights to reduce heat loss.

- 44.** Close fireplace dampers when not in use to keep heated or cooled air from escaping up the chimney.
- 45.** Set the thermostat as low as comfort permits. Each degree above 68° F can use 3% more energy.
- 46.** Open windows in spring and fall rather than using air conditioning.
- 47.** Install programmable or wi-fi thermostat to automatically control heating and cooling.

TAKE ACTION!

Thinking about replacing your heating, cooling or water heating equipment? Make sure your new systems are ENERGY STAR certified. Visit EnergizeCT.com or your utility's web site for available rebates or instant discounts.

- 48.** Clean or replace furnace filters as recommended, and have your furnace burner checked and cleaned annually.
- 49.** Use ceiling or portable fans in place of room air conditioners whenever possible.
- 50.** If you use electric heat, consider replacing it with a high efficiency ductless mini split heat pump system, which can cut electricity use by as much as 40 percent.
- 51.** Putting in an addition or remodeling? Consider a ductless mini split heat pump for heating and cooling, this efficient technology doesn't require extensive ductwork, and allows you to use zones to only condition the space you are using.

Make Smart Energy Choices

The Energize Connecticut initiative can connect you to programs, rebates and payment plans that will enable you to make smart energy choices.

To learn more visit EnergizeCT.com or call 1-877-WISE USE (947-3873).

For home energy audits:
GetEnergySmart.com

For energy saving products:
UISmartSolutions.com

To manage your energy at home visit the UI, SCG or CNG websites sign up for My Account and begin using the Energy Analyzer tool.

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Energize Connecticut – programs funded by a charge on customer energy bills.



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