

LIGHTING:

- Reduce hours of usage by turning off lights not in use.
- Use fluorescent lighting whenever possible. A 25-watt fluorescent light produces the same amount of light as about a 75-watt incandescent bulb and saves energy by using only 25 watts of energy; it also produces less heat.
- Use three-way bulbs in lamps, where possible. The low switch settings can be used when high levels of light are not needed for reading, studying or sewing.
- When buying a light bulb, consider its use. Choose low-wattage bulbs for closets, hallways or areas where quality work or vision is not affected.

To save more energy around your apartment:

- Develop a commitment to conservation.
- Keep all appliances clean and in good working order.
- If you're not using it, turn it off.



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TIPS

Energy Conservation for APARTMENTS



Save on your electricity costs... USE ENERGY WISELY!

Because apartments differ, as do the people living in them, comparison of electric bills among apartments can be difficult. These are some of the factors that help determine how many kilowatt hours are used.

- Size of the apartment (number of rooms and square footage included)
- Location — ground, middle or top level
- Exposure to unconditioned space (outside walls, single pane glass sliding doors and windows, ceiling with attic above)
- Number and age of occupants
- Lifestyle and living habits of occupants
- Comfort level desired by occupants (thermostat setting)
- Number and use of electric equipment and appliances (TVs, stereos, CDs/DVDs, computers, dryers, freezers, etc.)



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READ ON TO LEARN HOW TO SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL BY USING ENERGY WISELY!

HEATING AND COOLING

- During warm weather, do jobs that produce moisture at cooler times of the day — early morning or late evening. Mopping, laundering, dish washing and bathing increase the humidity in your apartment. This makes you uncomfortable and causes air-conditioning equipment to work harder.
- In summer, use your bathroom exhaust fan during and for a short time after bathing or showering to reduce heat and moisture buildup in your apartment.
- Avoid unnecessary opening of doors and windows, and be sure they are not left open.
- Weatherstrip all outside doors and windows to prevent needless heating and cooling losses. Install an inexpensive door sweep on the bottom of loose-fitting outside doors. A 1-inch gap under an outside door lets as much cold air in and out as a 9-square-inch hole in the wall.
- When a fireplace is not in use, close the damper so that cooled and heated air will not be drawn up the chimney. The common fireplace is only about 10 percent efficient, even when well-designed and well-constructed. Close off the room where the fireplace is located and turn the central system down to 55 degrees - 60 degrees. This will reduce heated air from other rooms being drawn up the chimney. Consider adding a fire screen of clear safety glass. This seals off the fireplace so that you can safely let a fire burn out without fear of sparks getting into the room. Such a screen will also prevent the precious house heat from escaping up the chimney.
- Dirty filters increase energy use. Check furnace and air conditioning filters monthly during heating and cooling seasons, and replace as needed. Keep all equipment clean and in good working order.
- Never block the air register or return air outlets used by your central heating and cooling system with furniture, draperies or carpet.
- During sunny winter days, open draperies to let the sun help warm your apartment. Close them at night or on cloudy days to act as an insulation against cold outside air. If you have unlined draperies, consider adding a drapery liner of insulated fabric that buttons over the back side of the drapery hooks. Window shades also help to keep cold air out.
- If you have a lot of glass area, consider cutting a 1-inch styrofoam board to exactly fit the window on the inside. The styrofoam can be covered with a piece of fabric if desired. Wrap the four outer edges with a strip of adhesive backed foam weatherstripping to assure a snug fit into the window. Insert the styrofoam from the inside into the window frame to create the dead air space between the glass window and the board to insulate against the cold outside air on cold, cloudy days and at night. Make sure that the glue or spray paint that you use is compatible with styrofoam.

- In summer, keep the sun out by closing draperies, blinds or shades. This helps reduce the energy required to cool your apartment.
- In winter, a thermostat set at 68 degrees or less during the day when the apartment is occupied is recommended. Kilowatt-hour usage for heating increases 3 percent for each degree of temperature above 68 degrees. During unoccupied hours or at night, lower the thermostat setting to 60 degrees or less. An exception to this set-back recommendation is if you have a heat pump. Do not set a heat pump thermostat back more than 5 degrees, because the cost of restoring the temperature is more than the savings when the resistance heat is activated unnecessarily.
- In summer, a thermostat set at 78 degrees is recommended if someone is in the apartment to enjoy the cool. For each additional degree of temperature below 78 degrees, your air conditioner will use 3 percent more energy. During unoccupied hours, leave the thermostat set at 80 degrees. If it is a window unit, turn it off when you leave home.

WATER HEATING:

The important thing here is to *reduce* the *amount* of hot water used in your apartment. There are many ways to do this:

- Repair leaks immediately. A leaking faucet can waste hundreds of gallons of water a year; if it's hot water, that's energy down the drain.
- Operate the dishwasher only with full loads. This only uses about 13 gallons of hot water, much less than washing dishes by hand. Allow the dishes to air dry whenever possible, rather than using the machine's drying cycle.
- Never waste hot water at the kitchen sink. Hold the dish or utensil you need to rinse in your left hand and reach for the cold water faucet. In most cases, when you turn the hot water on for a few seconds to rinse off a utensil, you don't get hot water. Instead you drain water out of the tank that has to be reheated. Always rinse dishes for the dishwasher in cold water. Use only cold water with the garbage disposal.
- Avoid letting hot water run constantly while washing dishes, shaving, etc.

REFRIGERATION:

- Defrost refrigerator before the ice inside the unit becomes more than ¼ inch thick. Ice acts as an insulator to cause the unit to run more and use more energy.
- Allow space for circulation of cold air by not overcrowding shelves.

- Cover liquids and foods before placing in the refrigerator. Uncovered liquids produce moisture vapor that adds work for the compressor.
- Open refrigerator door only when necessary and for as short a time as possible. In summer, fill a cooler with water or cold drinks so the children can get a drink without opening the refrigerator door.
- Check insulation gaskets around doors. It is recommended that gaskets around refrigerator doors which are worn and leaking cold air be replaced.
- Recommended temperature for a freezer is 0 degrees; for refrigerator, between 38 degrees and 40 degrees. Appliance thermometers are available in most hardware and variety stores.
- Turn your refrigerator's temperature control dial to a slightly warmer setting when you leave on vacation or extended trips.
- Vacuum the refrigerator condenser coils on the back side at least once a year. When they are dirty, more energy is used.
- Keep the grill at the bottom of the refrigerator clean to allow better air circulation and reduce energy. Occasionally remove it to clean the evaporator pan.

COOKING:

- Normal use of the electric range will add to the heat supply in your home, but do not try to heat with these appliances. In summer, use them as efficiently as possible and at the coolest times of the day.
- When cooking on the range, fit pan to size of unit. Switch control from high to low as soon as food begins to cook and save energy by using the lowest setting that will do the job.
- Flat-bottomed cookware with tight-fitting covers are most efficient.
- Use small amounts of water in cooking, so that foods will heat faster and require less energy; this saves nutrients, too. For instant hot beverages, heat only the amount of water required.
- Use the oven to cook more than one dish at a time. Oven pre-heating is not necessary for baking meat or vegetable dishes.
- Thaw meats and casseroles before cooking.
- Save more energy in an economical self-cleaning oven by using the cleaning feature soon after oven use while some heat is still retained. Clean only when necessary. The self-cleaning oven has extra insulation that saves about 15 percent of energy used for oven baking. This more than pays the cost of cleaning.
- When possible, it is generally more economical to use a portable appliance than to use the range for the same job. Examples: toaster, fry pan, coffee maker.
- Microwave ovens can reduce the amount of energy used for cooking. Energy saving depends on the type and quantity of food to be prepared.

Read on for more energy saving tips!