

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 over-crowding 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 the 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.
- If you have a separate freezer, keep it in the mobile home, if possible. This keeps the freezer from working hard in extremely hot or cold weather to use more energy, and prolongs the freezer's life. If you can't find room in your home for the freezer, a good second choice is to keep it in your garage or carport, protected from the sun.

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 even 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.

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 seeing is not affected.

To save more energy around your mobile home:

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

If you are in the market for a new mobile home, shop for an energy efficient model. Insulation is required in all mobile homes. Some homes are now available with special energy-saving features. These features could pay for themselves in just a few years!

Also, check out Entergy's Home Energy Audit at www.energy.com

By responding to a few simple questions, you'll learn how energy efficient your home is along with ways to improve your score — which could save you money!



www.energy.com ▪ 1-800-ENERGY

C O N S U M E R

TIPS

Energy Conservation for MOBILE HOMES



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

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

- Size of the mobile home (number of rooms and square footage included)
- Location — when selecting a home site, look for features like trees and slopes in the land which offer sun and window protection and help control heating and cooling costs
- Number and age of occupants
- Lifestyle and living habits of occupants
- Comfort level desired by occupants (thermostat setting)
- Insulation and skirting in and around the mobile home.
- Number and use of electric equipment and appliances (TVs, stereos, CDs/DVDs, computers, dryers, freezers, etc.)



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

Outside the Mobile Home

- Trees and shrubs planted near the mobile home, particularly along the north, will offer protection from cold winter winds. Fall deciduous trees which lose their leaves are best for the east, west and south sides of the home. This will let in the warming sun in the winter and block the scorching sun in the summer.
- Ideally, your home should be positioned so the longest dimensions run east to west. Avoid large unshaded east and west windows, because they are exposed to several hours of sun each day. The summer sun is almost directly overhead so south windows are not exposed to the heat. And in the winter, the heat from the sun comes through those windows, supplementing the heating system in your home. Have a minimum amount of glass on the north side of your home to avoid heat loss due to cold northern winds in winter.
- Awnings are excellent sun shields as well as attractive additions to your home, especially on the south and west sides. A vine growing on a trellis is a beautiful way to shade your home and patio. If it loses its leaves in winter it will let in warming sunshine when it is needed.
- Skirting encloses the air space under the mobile home, moderating the heat loss in cold weather and the heat gain in warm weather. It is both decorative and protective. Be sure to keep it vented to avoid a build-up of condensation.
- Avoid large paved areas next to the home which are exposed to the sun. A lawn will reflect much less heat in summer.
- Light-colored, reflective roof coatings can reflect a surprising amount of sun and keep your roof many degrees cooler. Applying these paint-like coatings is a job you can do yourself.

Inside the Mobile Home

The money you spend to warm your home in winter and cool it in summer could be going right out the window. Or through your roof, walls, doors or floors. Here are some things you can do to manage your energy costs by keeping the cooling and heating inside where it will do some good:

INSULATION:

If your mobile home is not fully insulated, insulation is one of the most cost-effective steps you can take to manage your energy costs and make your home more comfortable.

- Insulate under the floor with spray-on foam or batt-type insulation. In winter, warm floors are a real comfort as well as an energy saver. Perhaps the easiest place to add insulation is in the skirting. Polystyrene rigid board or batt insulation can be used. Simply attach to the inside portion of the skirting.
- If you're remodeling inside the home consider installing rigid board insulation on outside walls and then covering it with paneling. This approach looks good and reduces heat loss through the walls. Rigid board insulation must be covered with a fire-retardant material.
- If the outside of your mobile home needs remodeling, you can add paneling which has a backing of rigid insulation for additional energy savings.
- You might want to consider adding a second roof to your home, and/or adding insulation above the original roof. Not only does this save on summer cooling and winter heating bills, but it will give the home a pleasant site-built appearance.
- Thermal ceiling panels applied to or suspended from the ceiling of the home is another method for adding more insulation. An extra R-4 to R-8 insulation value can be provided by the false ceiling.

STOP THOSE AIR LEAKS:

A lot of money may be leaking out of doors, windows, heating and cooling ducts, and other openings in the form of escaping cool or warm air. Here are some inexpensive remedies:

- Take time to caulk all cracks, no matter how small, around the molding, joints, door and window frames, top and bottom seams, skirts, under the floor, where siding meets-anywhere you see an opening air could leak through. Use a caulking compound and a caulking gun. It's an easy, inexpensive and effective way to save energy.
- Don't forget to seal pipe and hose connections, telephone wires, around dryer vents, sink and bathtub drains as they exit the home, electrical outlets and rivet holes. Loose screws should also be tightened. The electrical outlets can be sealed with inexpensive, insulated gaskets that fit under the cover plate. Turn off the electricity, remove the plastic cover plates with a screwdriver, insert the insulated gaskets, reattach the plates, and turn the electricity back on. The gaskets are available for wall switches and convenience outlets in most hardware and discount stores.
- Weatherstrip all doors and windows to seal leaks and eliminate drafts. Install an inexpensive door sweep on the bottom of outside doors. A 4" gap under an outside door lets as much cold air in and out as a 9-square-inch hole in the wall.
- Storm doors and storm windows can reduce your heating bill from 10 to 20 percent, depending on the condition of the

doors and windows, the construction and location of your mobile home, family habits, and other factors.

- Seal leaks in heating and cooling ducts by wrapping with a 3-inch foil-backed insulation and sealing with duct tape. Keep the foil facing outward. It is most important to seal the cracks between each section of ducting with flexible caulk before you add the insulation. Hidden air leaks coming from these cracks can limit the effectiveness of the insulation. Be sure the duct tape seals all the cracks between each section of insulation.
- Cover window air conditioning units with a tight-fitting plastic cover during winter months.

SAVINGS ON A DRAWSTRING:

- During sunny winter days, open draperies to let the sun help warm your mobile home. 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 styro-foam board to exactly fit the window on the inside. The styro-foam can be covered with a piece of fabric, if desired. Wrap the four outer edges with a strip of adhesive backed foam weather-stripping to assure a snug fit into the window. Insert the styro-foam 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.¹
- In summer, keep the sun out by closing draperies, blinds or shades. This helps reduce the energy required to cool your mobile home.

ENERGY SAVING HABITS:

- Dirty filters increase energy use. Check furnace and air conditioning filters monthly during heating and cooling seasons, and clean or replace as needed. Keep all equipment clean and in good working order.
- Never block air register or return air outlets used by your central heating and cooling system with furniture, draperies or carpet.
- In winter, a thermostat set at 68 degrees or less during the day when the mobile home 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 65 degrees or less.

¹Caution should be noted that styrofoam board is extremely combustible, and some brands of styrofoam could produce lethal fumes if ignited.

- In summer, a thermostat set at 78 degrees is recommended if someone is in the mobile home 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 mobile home. 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 off 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, but 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 disposer.
- Consider installing a flow restrictor to reduce the flow of water through hot water faucets from about 6 gallons per minute to about 3 gallons per minute.
- Avoid letting hot water run constantly while washing dishes, shaving, etc.
- Locate the water heater inside the mobile home if possible. If not, add an extra layer of insulation around the outside of the tank to cut heat loss. You can buy water heater insulation blankets or use faced batt or roll insulation. It is important to cut away the insulation over the thermostat plate covers at the front top and bottom of the electric water heater. This is a requirement of Underwriter's Lab. The top and bottom of a gas water heater should not be insulated.
- If you have long lengths of exposed hot water supply pipes leading from the water heater, you can save the cost of wasted hot water that cools in the pipe before reaching the faucet in the mobile home by insulating them. This may be done with insulated pipe wrap or duct insulation. Just spiral wrap the pipes and secure with duct tape.

[Read on for more energy saving tips!](#)