

# ENERGY-SAVING IDEAS FROM THE EXPERTS



Most of the energy-saving ideas provided here will cost you very little; many of them are free. Give them a try and enjoy the savings.

For more energy-saving tips, request a copy of our **More Comfort, Less Energy** guide at [CenterPointEnergy.com/saveenergy](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/saveenergy).

**Making a few minor adjustments can make a big difference in the amount of energy you use.**

**By dressing appropriately for the weather, sealing your house, and using appliances wisely, you can cut energy costs and increase comfort for you and your family.**

## Weatherize your home

- Weatherstrip and/or caulk around windows and door frames; seal bypasses.
- Insulate attic floor in the range of R-30 to R-44.
- Provide adequate ventilation for air circulation in your attic.
- Plant trees for a windbreak and sun protection.

## Tips for keeping cool

- In summer, shade windows from direct sun with awnings and trees. Apply tinted plastic film to windows to reduce solar heat gain and reduce work for air conditioner.
- Keep cooling system clean, including filters, fans, ducts, vents and thermostats. Clean or change filter monthly during cooling season. Keep condensation drain open.
- Do not block circulation of air from vents or cold air returns with furniture or drapes.
- Keep outdoor cooling unit clean; remove leaves and debris. Clean exposed coils with garden hose.

## Tips for keeping warm

Follow manufacturer's recommendation for proper maintenance of your heating system, or follow these instructions:

### Forced-air furnace

- Check flue pipes for signs of rust, corrosion or holes.
- Check filters monthly and change as needed.
- Check ducts and repair leaks or separations; insulate if in an unheated area.

### Other tips

- Keep thermostat set at 65° to 68°F during the day and 58°F at night or when you will be gone four hours or more. Set at 55°F during winter vacations or long periods away from home.
- Keep furniture or other obstructions away from forced-air vents.

- Open shades or drapes to let the sun warm the house. Other times, keep window coverings closed to keep cold air out.
- Insulate shades or drapes or hang liners behind drapes.
- Keep fireplace damper closed when not in use. Close doors and heat ducts to unused rooms.
- Keep doors to unheated areas (garage or attic) closed.
- Use kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans sparingly.
- Plug cold air leaks around permanent window air conditioners. If the grille plate is removable, tuck in cloth or plastic to shut off drafts; be sure to remove before turning unit on.
- Wear several layers of medium weight clothes versus one heavy layer.

## Using appliances wisely

### Range, oven or broiler

- Preheat oven five to ten minutes for pastries and foods that rise, such as cakes and breads. It is not necessary to preheat for meats and casseroles.
- Gas broiling is smokeless; broil with the door closed. Infra-red broilers do not need preheating.
- Bake multiple recipes and freeze extras for later use.
- Avoid opening oven door; you could lose up to 50°F.
- Never use oven to warm the kitchen; it was not designed for space heating and could be damaged.

### Range burners

- Cook on HIGH only when necessary. When food begins to boil, lower flame to smallest needed to maintain a gentle boil.
- Fit flame to pan size; cover pans whenever possible and cook foods in least amount of water necessary.
- If burner flame is yellow, ports (holes) and/or grates may need cleaning.

Did you know that CenterPoint Energy is offering money-saving rebates for the purchase and installation of energy-efficient heating and water heating equipment?

To learn more about our new rebate programs, visit [CenterPointEnergy.com/arkansasrebates](http://CenterPointEnergy.com/arkansasrebates) or contact us at [ArkansasEfficiency@CenterPointEnergy.com](mailto:ArkansasEfficiency@CenterPointEnergy.com).

For more information about efficient natural gas appliances, visit [CenterPointEnergy.com](http://CenterPointEnergy.com).

### Microwave

- Use to heat small quantities of food (up to 2 cups).

### Refrigerator/freezer

- Allow space around unit for good air circulation.
- Set at highest temperature that will keep food from spoiling: 40°F for refrigerator, 0°F for freezer.
- Check refrigerator door seal; replace if necessary. Open and close door as little as possible, especially during hot weather.

### Dishwasher

- Wash only full loads; see owner's manual on loading.
- Scrape dishes but do not rinse; keep filter screen clean.
- Shut off dishwasher before drying cycle. Open door and let dishes air dry, or use energy-saver air-dry option, if possible.
- Use proper amount of detergent. Too much or too little reduces efficiency.

### Water heater

- Insulate hot water pipes that run through cold areas.
- Drain a few pails of water from faucet of new water heaters each month to remove sediment. NOTE: *If your water heater is an older model that has not been drained regularly, the build-up of sediment may be too much to drain.*
- Set your water heater to 120°F. Today's dishwashers typically have booster water heaters to further heat water to the higher temperatures needed for dishwashing.
- Fix leaky faucets or toilet tanks. A small leak can waste as much as 3,280 gallons of water a year.
- Avoid long showers and full tub baths.
- Install a controlled-flow showerhead to reduce hot water use.
- Run garbage disposal with cold water.

### Washer and dryer

- When convenient, wash and dry full loads.
- Use cold water rinse whenever possible.
- Clean dryer lint screen after each load. Dry fabrics only as much as necessary and run consecutive loads when possible.
- Vent dryer to outside.
- Separate lightweight fabrics from heavyweight fabrics.
- Use "automatic cycle" if your dryer has one. When replacing dryer, consider a large capacity model.

### Additional energy savers

- Turn off lights and TV in unoccupied rooms.
- Keep light bulbs clean; even a film of dust reduces efficiency. Fluorescent bulbs use less energy than incandescent bulbs, give more light, and last longer.
- Use less electricity during peak hours (4 to 8 p.m.) when possible.
- Check EnergyGuide labels when shopping for new appliances. Improved design and materials make new major appliances much more efficient.



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