(10) IMPORTANT TIPS

To Remember For Energy Efficient Homes

BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

1 Change the filters in the heating and cooling system of your home regularly. Heating and cooling uses more energy than any other system in the home, accounting for approximately 43% of a year's total energy spending. Dirty filters overwork equipment which leads to early equipment failure. Replacing filters every 1–3 months saves up to $5 each month on utility bills and results in healthier indoor air.

2 Install a programmable thermostat to keep your home comfortably warm in the winter and comfortably cool in the summer. ENERGY STAR® estimates homeowners save, on average, $180 each year when programmable thermostats are properly installed and customized to your household's schedule.

3 Use the orientation of your home to reduce heating and cooling needs. During warmer months, close curtains and shades on the sunny side of your home to help keep the inside temperature cooler and reduce the work of your air conditioner. Open shades during cooler months to allow the sun to warm your home.

4 Replace your light bulbs with LEDs. LEDs use up to 90% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs.

5 Install lighting controls such as occupancy sensors and dimmers to save electricity. Occupancy sensors automatically turn lights off when not in use and can reduce wasted energy by roughly 30%. Dimmers can reduce energy use by about 20%. For additional savings, use natural light when possible.

6 Reduce the amount of air that leaks in and out of your home by caulking and weatherstripping to further reduce heating and cooling costs. The EPA estimates homeowners can save 15–20% on heating and cooling costs by air sealing their homes and adding insulation in attics, floors over crawl spaces and basements.

7 Turn off and unplug home electronics and other devices when not in use. Using a smart or advanced power strip to manage plug loads is an easy way to save money on your electric bills—the average household could save $100 or more annually by reducing the standby load for game consoles alone.

8 Choose energy efficient products—such as ENERGY STAR® certified products—when you buy or replace household appliances. Save additional energy by running your appliances at night and washing your clothes in cold water.

9 Learn to effectively use the fans in your home. Spot ventilation fans—including the exhaust fans in your bathroom, laundry room and kitchen—are effective at removing moisture and indoor air pollution. Leaving these fans running longer than necessary, however, can cost you money. Ceiling fans can also increase energy savings, but it's important to turn ceiling fans off when leaving the room.

10 Insulate your water heater to reduce heat loss and improve efficiency. Installing an insulation blanket is a simple and inexpensive way to improve the efficiency of your water heater, especially when the water heater is older or located in an unconditioned space.

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