

LIVING GREEN NEWS

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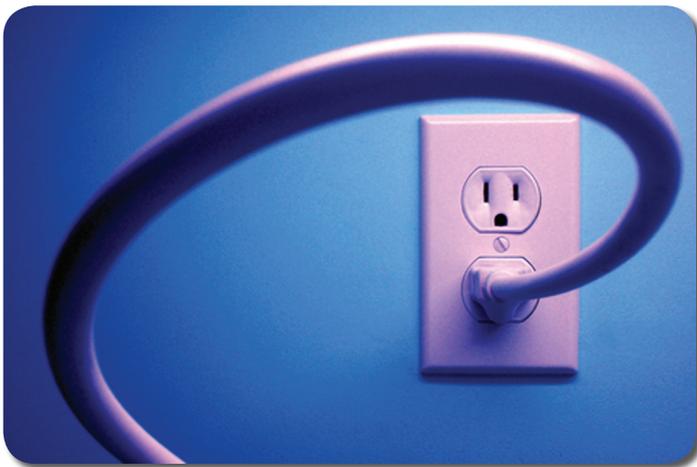


Home Energy Conservation Tips

We've dedicated this issue of the Living Green News to presenting a few home energy conservation tips. An energy efficient home is something we should all strive for. Not only can small steps be taken to lighten the "footprints" we leave behind for future generations, but these same steps can really save a bunch of money on your utility bills. Something as simple as changing a light bulb can make a dramatic difference in the energy efficiency and COST SAVINGS within your home!

1. **Paint the walls of your home a light color.** Dark colors tend to absorb light, requiring you to use more energy from light bulbs to achieve the same effect.

Not only do light colors on your walls help conserve energy in your home, they also make your rooms feel brighter and more cheerful!



2. A dishwasher that is 90% full uses 4 units of electricity. If it is only 50% full, it still uses 3 units of electricity. Fill the dishwasher to save on your electric bill.

3. **Buy a water heater blanket and keep your water heater insulated.** You'll save \$\$ every year.

Water heater insulation blankets are designed for gas, oil or electric heaters. Doesn't that just make you feel warm all over?

4. **Replacing a single incandescent bulb with an energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulb** (one of those "squiggly bulbs") can save several \$\$ over the bulb's lifetime.

5. Up to 16% of your heat can escape through unprotected windows. Close your drapes at night or

install insulating shutters to retain heat. If you have a large expanse of glass that doesn't receive direct sun, keep the drapes closed as much as possible.

If you want to save even more money, look into getting your windows tinted.

6. **75% of electricity used by home electronics is consumed while "off".** By using a power strip and switching off when not in use, you lessen CO2 emissions and reduce your energy bill.

7. When choosing your next washing machine, pick one with a front-loader. Front-loader models use 25% less energy than a standard model.

Also, simply switching from a hot/warm cycle to a warm/cold cycle when washing laundry can save you 10 cents a load. That adds up when you think about how many loads of laundry you do a year!

Don't forget to look for the Energy Star before making those big purchases!

8. **Check your furnace and AC filters regularly.** Cleaning or replacing filters once a month during periods of high use will insure proper air flow, promote better health, increase efficiency, and save money too.

If you are concerned about air quality, consider a dust collector or air filtration system.

9. During spring and summer months, if possible line dry your clothes instead of using a clothes dryer. This can save you as much as \$75 a year.

10. **Why pay for heat or AC you don't need?** You can save energy and money by using a programable thermostat. It can reduce your energy needs from heat or AC when you are at work, away at vacation, or asleep.

Quotes of Wisdom:

"Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save."
Will Rogers

"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value."
Albert Einstein