

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Typically, **43%** of your utility bills goes for heating and cooling. No matter what kind of heating and air-conditioning system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment.

Heating and Cooling tips:

- Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and as high as is comfortable in the summer.
- Clean or replace filters once a month, or as needed.
- Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing.
- When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.
- During the cold winter months, keep your draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to help warm your home. At night, keep them closed to reduce the chill from the cold windows.
- During the hot summer months, keep the window coverings closed during the day to prevent solar gain.

Windows

Although windows can be one of your home's most attractive features, they can also account for **10% to 20%** of your utility bill.

- If your home has single-pane windows, as many homes do, consider replacing them with new double-pane windows with high-performance glass.
- During **cold** winter days, close your curtains and shades at night; open them during the day.
- During the **warm** climate, close curtains on south and west facing windows during the day.

Lighting

On an average, **11%** of your utility bill is dedicated to lighting. Some tips for lowering lighting costs:

- Select energy-efficient products when you buy new heating and cooling equipment.
- Use linear fluorescent tubes and energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs in fixtures throughout your home. Fluorescent lamps are much more efficient and will last anywhere from 6 to 12 months longer.
- Consider using controls such as timers and photo cells to save electricity. Dimmers save electricity when used to lower light levels. Be sure to select products which are compatible with CFL bulbs as not all products are.
- When remodeling, look for recessed downlights that are rated for contact with insulation.
- Take advantage of daylight by using light-colored, loose-weave curtains on your windows to allow more daylight inside.