

# 20

ENERGY **SAVING** Tips

The  
**Home Energy  
Team** helped me  
**SAVE** on my  
energy bills.



**HOME ENERGY TEAM**



“ **I WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH YOUR ENERGY AUDITOR.** He was very qualified and spent a great deal of time with me. The energy audit was very informative. ”



**HOME ENERGY TEAM**

# ARE HIGH ENERGY BILLS GETTING YOU DOWN?

**20** ENERGY  
**SAVING** Tips to  
**SAVE** You **20%**  
ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS.

You can fight rising energy costs by reducing energy use in your home. Aside from saving money, you'll be helping the environment by reducing pollution and emissions that contribute to climate change. **Here are 20 easy things you can do right now to reduce your energy costs by 20 percent.**

For even greater savings, hire a certified, professional home energy auditor from **Home Energy Team**, who has the experience and equipment needed to locate problem areas in your home. Be sure to hire RESNET Qualified *EnergySmart* Contractors for all your energy efficient home improvements. They have the training and certification required to complete these projects successfully.

1.800.509.2872  
[www.HomeEnergyTeam.com](http://www.HomeEnergyTeam.com)

# Heating & Cooling

For the average US home, space heating is the largest energy expense, accounting for 35% of their energy bill, so improvements in this area can have a huge impact on your energy bills.

Inadequate insulation and air leaks are the largest sources of wasted energy in a home. **You can SAVE 20% of your heating costs by installing proper insulation and sealing air leaks.**

- 1 IN WARM WEATHER, PULL DOWN THE SHADES** during the day to block extra heat from entering your home. In cold weather, open the shades to let the heat in.
- 2 CAULK WINDOWS, ELECTRICAL OUTLETS AND PLUMBING** penetrations to prevent air leaks and save up to 5% on your energy bills. Install weather stripping on exterior doors that allow air to leak in, and on the attic hatch.
- 3 AIR CONDITIONING IS AN EXPENSIVE LUXURY** which accounts for up to 50% of your summer energy bills. Make sure your A/C unit is properly sized for your ducts, and is SEER 14.5 or higher. Whenever possible, use fans for cooling. A ceiling fan makes the room feel around four degrees cooler and costs only 5 cents per hour to run.
- 4 IN WARM WEATHER, INCREASE THE TEMPERATURE ON YOUR THERMOSTAT** by 2 degrees and use fans for a cooling effect. In cold weather, reduce the temperature by 2 degrees. Each degree saves 2% on your heating bill. A programmable thermostat allows you to adjust the temperature automatically to heat or cool less when no one is home.



**5 HAVE YOUR FURNACE SERVICED EACH YEAR** and change the air filters each month to keep it running at maximum efficiency. A clogged filter makes your furnace work harder, using more energy and increasing your operating costs. A clean, lubricated and properly adjusted furnace will save up to 5% of heating costs.

**6 CLOSE OFF UNUSED ROOMS** to avoid heating or cooling them unnecessarily.

**7 ENSURE THAT FLOOR REGISTERS AREN'T BLOCKED BY FURNITURE OR RUGS.** When air cannot enter the room it makes the furnace work harder, costing you more money.

**8 MAKE SURE THE FLUE IS CLOSED ON YOUR FIREPLACE** when not in use. Otherwise, up to 8% of your home's heated air will escape through the chimney.

# Lighting & Electricity

**Lighting alone accounts for 10% of energy costs.** A little diligence can go a long way in reducing your electricity bills.



**9 REPLACE INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULBS** with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) and save around 75% on lighting costs. CFL's last about 8 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

**10 USE MOTION SENSORS OR TIMERS FOR INDOOR AND OUTDOOR LIGHTS** so they're only turned on when needed. This also increases your home's security by shining the light on anyone who approaches.

**11 UNPLUG APPLIANCES AND ELECTRICAL ITEMS** such as hair dryers, power adapters and chargers when not in use, as they use electricity when plugged in. Use a power bar as a central shut-off point for entertainment systems or office equipment to save standby power use.

**SAVE 20%**  
ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS

# Water

- 12 IF YOU HAVE AN OLDER WATER HEATER**, wrap it in a thermal jacket to keep the heat in.

Water is the second largest energy expense in an average US home, accounting for 13% of the energy bills.



- 13 REDUCE THE TEMPERATURE ON YOUR WATER HEATER** to 110 or 120 degrees F. You won't notice a difference in water heat, but you will save 7% to 11% on your water heating costs. Lower temperatures also slow corrosion and build-up of minerals in the water heater and pipes.
- 14 RUN YOUR DISHWASHER ONLY WHEN FULL.** Use the energy saving setting if available, or manually turn off the heat during the drying cycle to save 20% of your dishwasher's energy use.
- 15 INSTALL LOW-FLOW AERATORS** in bathroom and kitchen faucets and shower heads and cut your water usage by up to 50%. By mixing air with water, you use half the water or less with virtually identical performance. A low-flow shower head saves 3 gallons per minute.
- 16 REPAIR LEAKY FAUCETS AND "RUN-ON" TOILETS.** A faucet dripping one drip per second adds up to 3154 gallons per year!



# Kitchen

**A significant amount of energy is used in the kitchen.**

The fridge alone accounts for 7% of the average energy bill.



- 17 KEEP YOUR FRIDGE BETWEEN 36-38 DEGREES F.** Clean your refrigerator's coils and intake grill (located below the door) every 6 months to keep it running efficiently. Dust and pet hair build-up forces the fridge's motor to work harder, which uses more electricity.
- 18 IF POSSIBLE, AVOID USING A SECOND FRIDGE,** which costs around \$120-\$145 per year to operate.
- 19 USE THE MICROWAVE OVEN INSTEAD OF THE CONVENTIONAL OVEN OR STOVE** whenever possible to cook or re-heat food, and use up to 50% less energy.
- 20 RESIST THE URGE TO OPEN THE OVEN DURING COOKING** — you lose 25% of the heat. Turn off the oven 5 minutes early. With the door closed there will be enough heat to finish cooking.



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# SCHEDULE a HOME ENERGY TEAM AUDIT TODAY!

**TO SAVE EVEN MORE ENERGY**, schedule a home energy audit with Home Energy Team. A certified home energy auditor will perform a thorough energy assessment of your home using diagnostic equipment to test areas you cannot normally access. For example, an infrared camera is used to “see” inside walls to test the efficiency of your insulation. A blower door is used to detect air leaks in the building envelope, which is a major cause of energy waste. And a duct blaster is used to find leaks in your ductwork that make your furnace and air conditioner work overtime. At the conclusion of the audit, you will receive a detailed report which includes recommendations for energy-saving improvements and the approximate cost and expected savings from each improvement.

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Contact us

**TODAY!**



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