

Ways to Save Energy

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Sealing air leaks is the first and most important step to home comfort.



You can keep hot water use to a minimum by washing only full loads in washers and dishwashers.



If your clothes dryer has an automatic cycle, use it, because drying more than needed wastes energy and wears out clothes.



You should check and clean your dryer exhaust vent occasionally and remove lint after each load.



You should weather-strip all doors and windows or install storm windows and doors to prevent drafts.



If you keep your thermostat set on 68 degrees in the winter, for every degree you raise or lower the setting, you can see a difference of up to 3 percent in energy costs.



If you block or restrict air flow by placing furniture over heating and cooling registers, your heating system and air conditioner will have to work harder.



You can set up a payment plan for your winter bills that is spread out over the year, not just the winter months. Call your electric or gas company and ask to be set up on Budget Billing.



You will get significant savings by lowering the water temperature setting to 120 degrees on your water heater.



Consider wrapping the hot water tank in a thermal blanket, which will help regulate the temperature and cut down on heat loss.



For safety reasons, wrap only the sides of a gas tank. Wrap the sides and top of an electric tank.



Air leaks in and out of your home around plumbing and wiring, around windows and doors, and where walls meet ceilings.



Lack of adequate weather-stripping can cost you \$50 or more a year in lost energy cost.



Washing clothes in cold water will not only prevent shrinking and fading, but will reduce your energy bill.



A seven-minute-or-less shower under a two-gallon-per-minute low-flow shower head is the more efficient than taking a bath in a bathtub full of water.



Your furnace requires routine maintenance, some from you, some from a furnace professional, in order to keep it safe and efficient.



Install a programmable thermostat which will lower the temperature while you sleep, and will raise it automatically just before you wake up.



It takes far less energy to lower the thermostat and then raise it later than to keep it set at the same setting at all times.



The more you can leave the air conditioner off, the more money you will save.



A quarter-inch gap at the base of a three-foot wide exterior door leaks as much air as a three-inch hole in the wall of your home.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

Write

PA Public Utility Commission
Bureau of Consumer Services
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Call

1-800-692-7380
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