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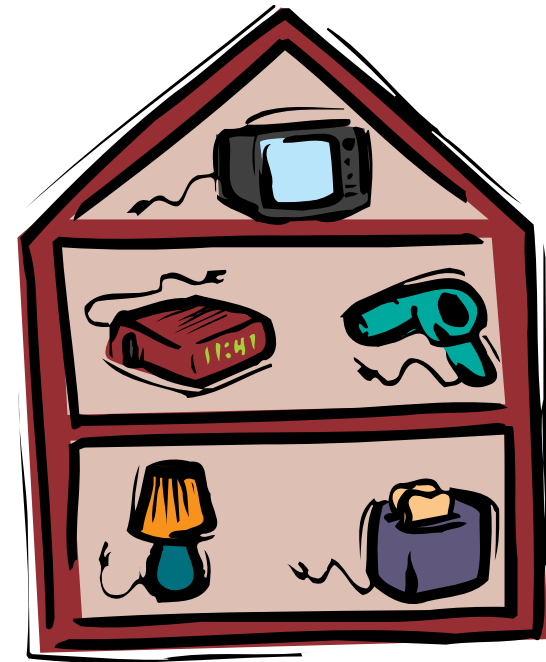
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# Energy Tips:

## Conserve and Save

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*As energy costs increase, you will be glad to know that there are simple projects that can be done with a minimum of time and equipment to reduce the amount of energy you use. Even if you are on a limited budget, these low-cost energy conservation techniques can add up to big savings.*

Cost to you: **FREE**

- Turn down the thermostat. For every degree you turn your home's thermostat down, you take about two percent off your energy bill. Lowering the thermostat five degrees at night and 10 degrees during the day when you're out can cut as much as 20 percent off your heating costs.
- Keep radiators and vents clear of furniture and drapes.
- Turn off the lights when leaving the room.
- Turn down the thermostat on the water heater to 120°F.
- Keep the refrigerator door closed.
- Clean the gasket on the refrigerator and freezer doors so they shut securely. Vacuum the coils underneath the refrigerator for efficient operation. A clean refrigerator or freezer works more efficiently.
- Check the temperature inside both refrigerator and freezer. If your (accurate!) thermometer says the refrigerator is colder than 36 or hotter than 40 degrees Fahrenheit, adjust the controls. If the freezer falls between zero and five degrees Fahrenheit, you're fine. Otherwise adjust the controls. If you go 10 degrees less than the minimum suggested levels, you can increase your energy use by up to 25 percent.
- Run your dishwasher on normal setting, don't use special features such as pot scrubber.
- Use the shortest washing time possible, depending on how dirty the clothes. Washing longer than necessary wastes energy and wears out clothes.
- Set washer loads for "warm" or "cold" wash instead of hot. Extra dirty loads might need a cold water pre-soak. The only time a washer really needs hot water is for oily/greasy stains. The rinse water should always be cold since the temperature does not affect cleaning. Using cooler water gives you the added bonus of longer-lasting clothes.

- Clean the lint trap (and possibly even the vent pipe) on your clothes dryer.

Cost to you: **Less than \$5**

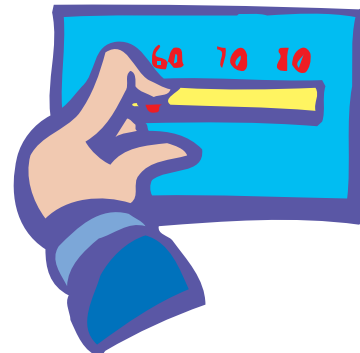
- Install foam gaskets under switch plates and outlets on exterior walls.
- Use plastic transparent window film on drafty windows.
- Use power strips for appliances and entertainment centers that have an instant-on or clock feature. Turn off when not in use.
- Stop leaks by replacing washers in sink faucet.
- Make a draft dodger by filling an old sock or fabric tube with sand and place against the bottom of exterior doors.

Cost to you: **Less than \$10**

- Use spray foam insulation around windows and door frames to seal leaks.
- Replace weather stripping around exterior doors.
- Replace door sweep on the bottom of door.

Cost to you: **Less than \$25**

- Install insulating blanket on water heater.
- Install new threshold under exterior doors.
- Install low-flow shower head.



Resources for additional information:  
Cooperative Extension Service, 474-2420  
Rich Seifert, CES Energy Specialist, 474-7201  
Interior Weatherization, 452-5323  
Golden Valley Electric Cooperative, 452-1151