

Find Relief from Winter Energy Bills: It's as Easy as 1, 2, 3

Step 1: Feel the Heat

Nearly **half** of your energy bill goes to heating. Stay warm and save money with a few simple steps.

- Save about 3% on heating costs for each degree you lower your thermostat. Use a programmable thermostat to reduce the temperature at night and when you're at work. You won't feel a difference, but you will see it on your bills.
- Be sure registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators aren't blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- A dirty filter makes your furnace work harder. Change fiberglass and pleated filters at least every three months. Turn off the fuel supply and electrical before servicing.
- Remove and store window air conditioning units.
- Report drafts around windows, doors, or pipes through walls. Simple caulking and weatherstripping can save up to 30% on heating and cooling costs.

Step 2: Slow the Flow: Keep Water Bills Low

Save money on your energy and water bills by using water more wisely.

- Turn off faucets completely. Little drips add up – one drip can waste 48 gallons per week. Report running toilets or plumbing leaks.
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. An efficient showerhead can save a family of four about \$285 per year. It's easy: they just screw on.
- Turn the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees (or "low"). You won't sacrifice comfort but you will save money. For every 10 degrees lower, you will save 3 – 5% in energy costs.
- Don't run water while brushing teeth or shaving. Take short showers rather than baths.
- Wash only full loads in your clothes washer and use cold water whenever you can.

Step 3: Don't be Shocked by Electric Bills

Appliances and electronics are responsible for about 20% of home energy costs. Small changes in how you use them can mean big savings on your electricity bill.

- Anything that plugs into the wall is drawing energy—energy that costs you money. Unplug or turn off items when you don't need them on. Turn off lights, ceiling fans, and portable fans whenever you leave a room.
- Refrigerator door seals should be tight. If you see condensation or mold around seals or if you close a dollar bill in the seal and can pull it out easily, the seal is loose or the latch may need adjustment. The building manager can make this repair.
- Use a microwave or toaster oven for cooking or reheating small items. Use the broiler rather than the oven when possible. The broiler uses less energy and preheating is not required.
- Save more than \$108 over three years when you replace your four most used 100-watt bulbs with comparable 23-watt CFLs. CFLs cost a little more to purchase but use 66% less energy and last 10 times longer than standard bulbs.
- When replacing just about anything electrical, look for products with the ENERGY STAR[®] label. These products use less energy, and can save you 10 – 30% on operating costs. Stores sometimes offer rebates on ENERGY STAR qualified products. Visit www.energystar.gov to learn more.



Bright Idea

Remember: Free lighting is available every day. Open shades and blinds on sunny days. Close them at night to reduce heat loss through windows.