

# Lower Your Energy Bills This Summer Room by Room

Did you know that nearly **half** of your summer energy bill goes to cooling your home? Use these tips in the coming months to stay cool and save money.

## In the Kitchen

- Use a microwave oven instead of a conventional electric range or oven.
- Use a slow cooker to prepare one-dish meals and keep the kitchen cool.
- When using the stovetop, put lids on pans to keep the heat where it's supposed to be.
- Fire up the barbeque in the great outdoors. Close windows and doors to keep carbon monoxide out.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and let them air-dry.

## In the Den and Family Room

- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- Plug home electronics, such as printers, home electronics, TVs and VCRs, into power strips. Turn power strips off when equipment is not in use.

## In the Bath

- Take showers instead of baths to reduce hot water use. A five-minute shower uses a third of the water it takes to run a bath.
- Don't let water run while brushing your teeth or cleaning the bathroom.
- Report all leaks or running toilets.
- Wash only full loads of clothes and use cold-water whenever possible. Let clothes air dry outside on hangers.

## In Every Room

- When buying new appliances, home electronics, and lighting look for the ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> label on the product or the box. These products use less energy, and can save you 10-30 percent on operating costs.
- Install white window shades, drapes, or blinds to reflect heat away from the house.
- Close curtains on south- and west-facing windows during the day.
- Whenever possible, open shaded windows and use fans instead of operating your air conditioner.
- If you use a window air conditioner, use a fan with it to spread the cool air throughout your home.
- Don't place lamps or TVs near the thermostat. The heat from these appliances will trick the air conditioner into running longer.
- Report drafts around windows, doors, or pipes through walls. Simple caulking and weatherstripping can save up to 30 percent on heating and cooling costs.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs), available at any store that sells lighting.
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater: 120 degrees is comfortable for most uses. You won't sacrifice comfort but you will save money.