

Top 10 energy efficiency tips

We offer a number of tips and tools to make it easier for you to start saving energy and money.



1. Set thermostats at 78°F in the summer and 68°F in the winter. You can expect a 5% to 10% increase in energy use for every degree you set your thermostat lower in the summer and higher in the winter.

2. Properly insulate attic, walls and floors. If you use conventional batt or blown insulation materials, choose R-19 for walls/floor and R-38 for attic. We recommend open cell foam insulation at R-22 for the ceiling, R-15/R-22 for the walls, and R-19/R-22 for the floors.

3. Air seal the home with a house wrap or a rigid insulation and air barrier material with all penetrations and seams caulked, foamed, taped and/or weather-stripped to reduce air and vapor infiltration. Make sure any interior attic access locations and fireplace flues seal tightly when closed.

4. Have HVAC systems professionally serviced at least once a year to keep them running efficiently. And, whether you're building a new house or replacing an older system, always use an electric heat pump; the most efficient heating and cooling system available.

5. Change your HVAC filters once a month.

6. Check refrigerator and freezer door seals occasionally to ensure a proper, leak-free seal. Avoid placing refrigeration equipment in unconditioned garages. When buying a new appliance, look for the ENERGY STAR label.

7. Consider a heat pump water heater, solar water heater or a super-insulated conventional electric water heater. Insulate hot water lines all the way from the water heater to the fixture. And, if possible, centrally locate the water heater close to the fixtures with the highest anticipated use.

8. Properly seal HVAC ductwork and mechanical closets to avoid air leakage and infiltration problems that can lead to poor indoor air quality and higher HVAC costs. The use of approved duct mastic is a must.

9. Switch to high efficiency compact fluorescent light or LED bulbs. These bulbs can last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and don't give off as much heat.

10. Use low-e, double-paned windows to greatly reduce heat gain in the summer and heat loss in the winter. Look for energy efficient windows with "0.4 U-Values" and "Solar Heat Gain Coefficients" of 0.25 or less.

For more information and ways to save money & energy, visit **GulfPower.com**.