

Energy Savings Tips

Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance's Top 10 ways to lower your heating bill

Things you can do today:

1. Conduct an Energuide home evaluation. Go to http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/houses-maisons/english/choose_e.htm to get more information.

2. Insulate your home - Insulation is cheaper than energy. Insulate your attic and basement properly and you increase energy efficiency enormously. You'll save in the summer and winter. Insulation also helps alleviate moisture condensation problems and noise. disturbance.

- ✓ Insulate your attic fully – it works like putting a winter hat on your head.
- ✓ Use fibreglass or rigid foam board insulation for walls and damp basements.
- ✓ Insulating is one of the best ways to increase your home's resale value. Once insulated, you can confidently finish areas for living and working activities – thus adding to the square footage available.
- ✓ For floors, installing rigid extruded polystyrene insulation offers exceptional resistance to moisture including ground moisture vapour and condensation. Water leakage should be sealed off at the source of the leak using a sealant or waterproofing material.

3. Weatherproofing/Caulking/Sealing. A well insulated, well-sealed house keeps cold air out, warm air in and controls moisture. A small investment in time and money makes a big difference in your heating bills.

- ✓ Seal all cracks and gaps around windows, doors, vents and chimney with exterior caulk.
- ✓ Still not sure if you've eliminated all cracks and gaps? Conduct a systematic draft-search in your home with a candle on a windy day.

4. Install Programmable Thermostats. Program your thermostat to cool the house when people are sleeping or the house is empty. Just like cruise control in your car which helps you get more kilometers per litre, your thermostat can deliver "more heat for the fuel" in your home. This energy-saving technique can save you 16 -25% in energy.

5. Use a humidifier. Properly humidified air feels warmer and helps protect your wood flooring, instruments and fabrics from dry heated air, allowing you to turn your thermostat down a degree or two and save. A home heated to 69 degrees with 35 percent relative humidity feels just as warm as a 72-degree setting at 19 percent humidity.

6. Don't run your dishwasher or washing machine until you have a full load. Aim to run it only in the late evening, during off peak hours which are typically after 10pm to 7am. And, if your dishwasher does not have an energy saver feature, let your dishes air dry.

7. Light Right! Compact fluorescents are four times more efficient than regular bulbs and last about eight times as long. If you can't find compact fluorescents, control the intensity of your regular bulbs with dimmer switches. A bulb dimmed by 25% uses 10% less energy. And remember, turn off lights when you don't need

them.

Things you can do tomorrow:

8. Always look for the Energy Star and EnerGuide labels when buying a new appliance. The Alliance advises consumers to consider not only the initial pricetag, but also how much energy the appliance will use over the long-term. The lower the operating cost—that is, the lower the kWh (kilowatt hours) the appliance uses—the lower its impact on every electricity bill (for more info go to <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/energystar/>).

9. Install a zoned temperature control system ('zoning'). 'Zoning' helps maximize comfort in any type of home. A zoning system can help save by delivering heating and cooling to one room when it's needed. How many of us have one room in the house that is a sauna while other rooms still feel like iceboxes? Among the top-rated features and options, 'zoning' is most easily included during new construction.

When used with programmable thermostats, 'zoning' can save you up to 30% on heating and cooling costs, and up to 40% by reducing wear and tear and maintenance costs - adding up to hundreds of dollars in savings per every year.

10. And for those thinking about a new home think R-2000. R-2000 homes are the most energy efficient new home choice. They incorporate advanced fresh air ventilation systems, the most environmentally sound building materials and products, and use at least 40 percent less energy than new conventional houses.