

RESIDENTIAL CHECKLIST FOR REDUCING ENERGY



Take a look at these tips - most of which don't cost any money and the rest cost very little. Completing any of these tasks will do a couple things. First, you'll save money. Second, you'll be reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which means a better future for you, your family, and friends. It all adds up - the more you can check off, the more you'll save!

HEATING/COOLING

- ___ Seal the leaks surrounding windows and doors and lay insulation in the attic to reduce energy needs 10%.
- ___ Keep your winter temperature at 65°F when you're at home and 58°F while you sleep or are away. A 10-15°F reduction for eight hours saves around 10% a year on heating bills (PECO).
- ___ Cool your house to 78°F in summer when you are there and set to 80-83°F when you're away (PECO).
- ___ Keep the AC thermostat fan to "auto" because it keeps humidity lower and comfort higher (PECO).
- ___ Run the fans **and** the air conditioner at the same time, but set the AC 2-3 degrees higher. You'll feel just as cool, but your overall cooling cost will be 20-30% lower! (PECO).
- ___ Keep shades and curtains closed in summer. About 40% of unwanted heat comes through windows. Drawing blinds and curtains acts like insulation, reducing heat gain. Close in winter at night to reduce heat loss (PECO).
- ___ Seal all accessible heating/cooling ducts with mastic or metal tape (not duct tape) and insulate them. About 20% of the air that moves through the ducts is lost due to leaks, holes, and poorly connected ducts. Also, make sure that the connections at vents and registers are well-sealed where they meet the floors, walls, and ceiling (EPA/Energy Star).
- ___ Don't try to speed heat or cool your house - it takes as much energy to raise or lower air temperature one degree whether the air is 10° or 100°.
- ___ The lower the interior temperature, the slower the heat loss - the longer your house remains at a lower temperature, the more energy saved. In winter, turn the thermostat down if you'll be away an hour or longer.
- ___ The higher the interior temperature, the slower the heat penetrates your house - the longer your house remains at a higher temperature, the more energy saved. In summer, turn the thermostat up if you'll be away an hour or longer.

AIR LEAKS

- ___ Seal air leaks - it's the first and most important step to home comfort. Lack of adequate weather-stripping can cost you \$50.00 or more a year in lost energy cost (PA PUC)
- ___ Weather strip doors and windows. A ¼ inch gap at the base of a three-foot wide exterior door leaks as much air as a three inch hole in the wall of your home (PA PUC).

LIGHTING

- ___ Turn off a fluorescent light if you leave a room for 5- 15 minutes (depending on whether it is peak usage).
- ___ Incandescent lights (or bulbs) should be turned off whenever they are not needed since about 85%-90% of the electricity that they consume becomes heat.
- ___ Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents lamps (CFLs). You save \$40 over its lifetime, plus energy savings of 60%-75%, and a life span up to 10 times longer (EPA/Energy Star).

STANDARD GAS/ELECTRIC HOT WATER HEATERS

- ___ Turn down your thermostat – ideally to 120°F (Each 10°F reduction saves between 3%–5% in energy costs).
- ___ Insulate your hot water tank to reduce heat loss by 25-45%. (This will save you around 4%–9% in water heating costs, about \$10-20).
- ___ Insulate your hot water pipes to reduce heat loss and to raise water temperature 2-4 degrees.

WATER USE/HEATING HOT WATER

- ___ Take shorter showers to reduce amount of water heated and used.
- ___ Install aerators on faucets (maximize efficiency by purchasing ones that have flow rates of no more than 1.0 gallons/minute, about \$5-10).
- ___ Wash clothes in cold water to prevent shrinking, fading, and to reduce your energy bill. (PA Public Utility Commission [PUC]).
- ___ Install low-flow showerheads (maximize water efficiency by selecting a one with a flow rate of less than 2.5 gallons/minute, about \$10-20). Conventional showerheads use 7-10 gallons/minute.
- ___ Wash only full loads in washers and dishwashers to reduce amount of water heated and used.
- ___ Fix leaks (1 drop/second = \$1.00/month).
- ___ Buy a wrap for your hot water tank

COMPUTERS

- ___ Put your computer to sleep –These Energy Star models use 70% less electricity than computers without that feature.
- ___ Turn off the monitor if you'll be away for more than 20 minutes. Older desktop monitors can use over 300 watts – at \$0.20 per kilowatt hour, 24 hrs/day, you're paying \$578 a year to run your computer and putting almost 4000 pounds of greenhouse gases into the air. If you just shut it off 12 hours each day, you save \$289 and eliminate over 2000 pounds of greenhouse gases.
- ___ Turn off both the CPU **and** monitor if you're not going to use them for more than two hours.

OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS

- ___ The average U.S. home pays more than \$100 a year on phantom loads—energy being used even when devices are not on! These include: LCD or plasma TVs, cell phone chargers, gaming stations, microwaves, stereos, and DVD players. Save up to 30% energy by charging devices using external power adapters approved by Energy Star, or plug multiple appliances into power strips and shut off the strip when not in use.
- ___ Check and clean your dryer exhaust vent occasionally and remove lint after each load.
- ___ If your clothes dryer has an automatic cycle, use it - drying more than needed wastes energy and wears out clothes. Better yet – air dry.
- ___ Avoid placing furniture over air registers to avoid furnace and air-conditioners having to work harder (PA PUC).



Save \$\$\$\$\$ and Reduce your carbon footprint at the same time!



(All information obtained through the Department of Energy unless indicated otherwise)