

# Keeping Your Home Warm without Breaking the Bank

You can save substantially if you follow some of these tips:

## Let the sunshine in.

- Open drapes and let the sun heat your home for free (get them closed again at sundown so they help insulate).
- Move your furniture around so you are sitting near interior walls - exterior walls and older windows are likely to be drafty. Don't sit in the draft.

## Shorten showers.

- Simply reducing that lingering time by a few minutes can save hundreds of gallons of hot water per month for a family of four. Showers account for 2/3 of your water heating costs. Cutting your showers in half will reduce your water heating costs by 33 percent.

## Use appliances efficiently.

- Do only full loads when using your dishwasher and clothes washer and during non-peak hours. Doing this can save you over 20% of your dishwasher's total electricity use.
- Use the cold water setting on your clothes washer when you can. Using cold water reduces your washer's energy use by 75 percent.
- Be sure to clean your clothes dryer's lint trap mid-way through each use. This will cut your drying time significantly.

## Vents

- Keep them clear from any furniture that may obstruct the vent and keep them clean. It takes less energy to keep your home warm when the vents are clean and clear from any obstruction.
- Change your filters no less than the start of each season

## Refrigerators

There are a couple of things we can do to keep refrigeration costs down:

- Keep your refrigerator compartment between 36°F and 38°F, and the freezer compartment between 0°F and 5°F.
- Always cover everything. But let it cool first. Don't place hot or even warm food directly inside the refrigerator. Humidity escapes from uncovered hot and warm foods. The compressor in your refrigerator must work harder to remove the excess humidity. Letting it cool and covering it before placing in the refrigerator will save energy and save you money!
- Keep your freezer full.
- Clean the condenser coils at least twice a year. (If you have a refrigerator with the black coils mounted on the back, these coils don't require semi-annual cleaning.)

## Computers

- Let them "sleep" (it'll save you money in the long run).

## Lights

- We all know to flip the light switch off when we leave the room. But, did you know that an incandescent light produces 4-6 times less light than a fluorescent bulb while producing 75% more heat?

**Is saving energy a priority? We may be able to help. We offer free weatherization services to households that are eligible. Call us to find out more!**

## Fresno EOC Weatherization Program

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# Keeping Your Home Cool without Breaking the Bank

Summer is here and we are all looking for ways to keep our homes cool and our energy bills low.

You can save substantially if you follow some of these tips:

**Ceiling fans:** It's all about the direction your fan spins! In the summer, paddles need to spin to the left (it will look counterclockwise if you are looking up at the ceiling fan). This creates a wind-chill factor that will cool you down. Remember: ceiling fans cool people, not the air or the room! So, make sure to turn off your ceiling fan when you leave the room.

**Air Conditioning Unit:** Make sure to leave your thermostat at 78°F (26°C) degrees when you're home, 85° F for the 8 hours you're away / asleep. Doing this can save you about 5% - 15% a year on your energy bill. A common misconception associated with thermostats is that an air conditioner works harder than normal to cool your space back to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat has been set up, resulting in little or no savings. On the contrary, a higher interior temperature will slow the flow of heat into your house, saving energy on air condition.

**Refrigerators:** There are a couple of things we can do to keep refrigeration costs down:

1. Keep your refrigerator compartment between 36°F and 38°F, and the freezer compartment between 0°F and 5°F.
2. Always cover everything. But let it cool first. Don't place hot or even warm food directly inside the refrigerator. Humidity escapes from uncovered hot and warm foods. The compressor in your refrigerator must work harder to remove the excess humidity. Letting it cool and covering it before placing in the refrigerator will save energy and save you money!
2. Keep your freezer full.
4. Clean the condenser coils at least twice a year. (If you have a refrigerator with the black coils mounted on the back, these coils don't require semi-annual cleaning.)

**Peak Hours:** Shift some electricity use to off-peak periods. During the summer months (5/1 – 10/31), the highest use of energy (Peak hours) are Monday – Friday between 10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. By shifting some of your activities that are energy-intensive to off-peak hours you help ease the energy demand in your area.

**Dryer:** Cleaning out the lint trap in your dryer halfway through the cycle will help reduce the time needed to dry your clothes, and will help it run more efficiently. A full lint trap will not allow the moist air to escape, which slows down the drying cycle and uses more energy. Cleaning the lint trap frequently will also prevent the risk of fire.

**Dishwasher:** Run your dishwasher only when it is a full load and during non-peak hours; use the energy saving setting if available. Doing this can save you over 20% of your dishwasher's total electricity use.

One full dishwashing cycle will use approximately 3.6 gallons to clean about a days' worth of dishes for a family of four. If this same family of four were to wash dishes by hand, it would take approximately 6-15 gallons of water to wash dishes after each meal.

**Vents:** Keep them clear from any furniture that may obstruct the vent and keep them clean. It takes less energy to keep your home cool when the vents are clean and clear from any obstruction.

Change your filters no less than the start of each season

**Windows and Doors:** Place weather-stripping around your windows and doors. A crack as small as 1/16 of an inch around a window or doorframe can let in as much heat as leaving a window open three inches. Weather-stripping around door and window frames can stop this airflow. You can also install draft guards and caulk smaller gaps.

**“Vampires”:** Television sets suck energy even when they aren't in use! Unplug them when they aren't in use.

**Computers:** Let them “sleep” (it'll save you money in the long run).

**Lights:** We all know to flip the light switch off when we leave the room. But, did you know that an incandescent light produces 4-6 times less light than a fluorescent bulb while producing 75% more heat?

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