



Craighead Electric Cooperative Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS

Heating & Cooling Systems

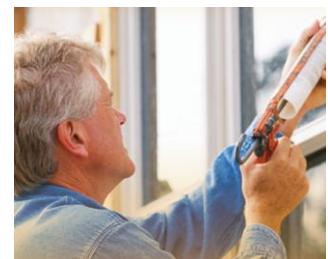
- Keep your thermostat set at 78 degrees or higher during the cooling season. Use of fans can make the higher temperature setting feel more comfortable.
- Keep the thermostat at 68 degrees or lower during the heating season. **A one-degree change in the thermostat setting can cost you an additional 3% in energy costs.**
- Don't keep changing your thermostat. **Find the right level and leave it.**
- Newer thermostats are more accurate than older ones. Older thermostats may activate the heating or cooling within a broad range – possibly five to ten degrees. **A thermostat set at 78 degrees, but is actually 75 degrees can cost up to an additional 9% in cooling costs.**
- Make sure your thermostat is reading correctly. Use a thermometer you know is accurate to check your thermostat. If your thermostat is reading incorrectly, have it repaired accordingly or have it replaced.
- Shade your air conditioner. **An air conditioner exposed to the sun will use up to 5% more energy.**
- Have your heating and cooling system tuned-up by a licensed professional once a year.
- Consider the purchase of a new heating and cooling system if yours is 15 years or older.

Air Filters

- Dirty air filters block a significant percentage of airflow and drastically reduce heating and cooling system efficiency. **A dirty filter can increase your heating and cooling costs as much as 10%.**
- Filters should be changed at least once a month. This will not only keep your air cleaner, but will prolong the life of your heating and cooling system, as a clean system will run more efficiently.

Air Infiltration

- Normal air leakage doubles when a central air conditioner is running. This is caused by pressure and suction created in the air conditioner and the ductwork. **Consequently, you need to reduce or eliminate air leakage as it can account for 10-30% of the cooling load.**
- Leakage is commonly found around:
 - Electrical service boxes.
 - Plumbing penetrations. (Kitchen and bathroom).
 - Fireplaces and chimneys.
 - Heating and air conditioning ducts.
 - Light fixtures.
 - Attic access doors.
- Caulk and weather-strip around all doors, windows and other openings.



Lights

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs will last up to ten times longer than comparable incandescent bulbs and will produce the same level of light for one-fourth of the operating cost. They will also reduce your home's cooling load, as they do not produce heat.
- Turn off lights when possible and remove unwanted light bulbs where the light is too bright.
- When replacing light bulbs use lower wattage.



Water Heater

- **Hot water can account for up to 30% of your energy costs**—second only to your heating and cooling energy expense.
- Insulate older electric water heaters with an insulation blanket available at hardware stores. If your water heater feels warm to the touch, then it definitely needs additional insulation.
- Insulate your hot water pipes coming out of the water heater. **This can result in a 3% savings in heating costs.**
- Install a piece of insulation board under your water heater for additional energy savings
- Reducing the consumption for hot water will save you money. Suggestions are:
 - Install a low-flow showerhead in the shower as well as reduce the time in the shower.
 - Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when full loads can be washed
 - Turn down the temperature setting on your water heater to 120 degrees.
 - Use cold water as much as possible when washing clothes.
 - Repair leaking hot water faucets.
 - Don't let the hot water tap run unnecessarily.



Miscellaneous

- Pre-heat your oven just long enough to reach the correct temperature. Turn it off five to ten minutes early before removing food from the oven.
- Bake several dishes at the same time. It uses no more energy – you get two or more for the price of one.
- Use a microwave oven when possible. **A microwave uses up to 50% less energy than a conventional oven.**
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer as full as possible. A half-empty appliance uses more energy.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed. Opening the doors cause the appliances to use more energy.
- Make sure your refrigerator and freezer gaskets are tight. Close the door on a heavy piece of paper. If it pulls out easily, the gaskets may need replacing.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer at the right temperature. **If they're only 10 degrees colder than necessary, your operating costs will go up an amazing 25%.** Refrigerators should be between 38 and 42 degrees and the freezer between 0 and 5 degrees.
- When using your dishwasher, use short cycles for everything but the dirtiest dishes. **This can save up to 25% on hot water and electrical usage.** If your dishwasher has an air-dry setting, use it instead of the heat-dry setting. **You can save up to 15 to 50% of your energy costs by air drying dishes.**
- **Washers and dryers can account for as much as 25% of electrical usage.** When running these appliances always use a full load. Clean the lint filter in your dryer after each use. This will keep the dryer from running longer. Try using a clothesline in your garage or outside line to reduce electric dryer costs.
- On hot days, minimize the heat entering your home from outside by closing shades or curtains.
- A heated waterbed can use as much energy as a large refrigerator. **Leaving it unmade can double your energy costs by letting the heat dissipate into the air.**