



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY QUICK TIPS

## Lighting:

- ▶ Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). CFLs use 75 percent less electricity and produce 90% less heat.
- ▶ Make sure bulbs do not exceed the recommended wattage indicated on the light socket.
- ▶ One larger wattage bulb is more efficient than two smaller wattage bulbs.
- ▶ Directed light, such as for reading, is more efficient than brightly lighting an entire room.

## Heating and Cooling:

- ▶ Install a programmable thermostat. This can save 10-20% of your energy use.
- ▶ Set your thermostat to 78°F in the summer and 68°F in the winter. Every degree of extra heating or cooling will increase energy usage 6% to 8%.
- ▶ On warm days raise your thermostat to 80°F or higher if leaving for more than four hours.
- ▶ Use ceiling or portable fans. Fans move the air and make the room feel four to six degrees cooler, and will use much less energy than the air conditioner.
- ▶ Keep windows and door shut tight. Going in and out of the house repeatedly will make your air conditioner or furnace work harder.
- ▶ Use shades or curtains to block the sun and heat during warm weather and open them to let the sun warm your home during cooler months.

## Appliances:

- ▶ Minimize opening and closing your refrigerator and freezer and keep it full. Refrigerators and freezers actually operate most efficiently when full.
- ▶ Set temperature to 120°F if your dishwasher has its own water heater, otherwise set it at 140°F.
- ▶ Only run dishwashers and clothes washers when fully loaded. This will save water in addition to electricity. Use cold water for laundry.
- ▶ Use the air-dry setting on your dishwasher. Using the heat-dry setting can also heat the kitchen, causing the air conditioner to run more.
- ▶ Using dishwashers and clothes washers/dryers at night will keep the house cooler and reduce strain on the power grid during the peak usage hours of 4 PM and 6 PM.

## Insulation and Leaks:

- ▶ Invest in proper insulation and weatherization products. Reduce air leaks and increase the efficiency of your home by caulking, sealing and weather-stripping all seams and cracks.
- ▶ Check your ducts to see if there are any leaks and seal them with mastic tape if needed. Caulk and weather-strip doors, windows and pipe clearances. You can save as much as 10% on cooling costs relatively inexpensively by sealing these leaks.
- ▶ If your home has single pane windows, consider replacing them with more energy efficient windows, or adding solar shades or tinting film.

**Go to [www.TexasIsHot.org](http://www.TexasIsHot.org) for more tips and tools, including a CFL calculator which will show you the cost savings between an incandescent lightbulb and a CFL.**

