



Focus on Energy Residential Fact Sheet

Tips on saving energy this summer



During the summer it is important to keep your home cool and comfortable while managing your utility bills. Focus on Energy has developed some tips to make your home more efficient this summer.

Keep your cool

✓ Central air conditioners
To keep your central air conditioner at peak efficiency, it is important to keep it properly maintained. You should schedule yearly maintenance and regularly check the refrigerant charge, as well as indoor and outdoor air coils.

✓ Window air conditioners
To utilize window air conditioners efficiently make sure to keep the filters clean. Also, rather than running the air conditioner while you are gone, use a timer to turn it on half an hour before you get home. If possible, locate the unit in a window that is most central to the area you are cooling and on the shadiest side of the building.

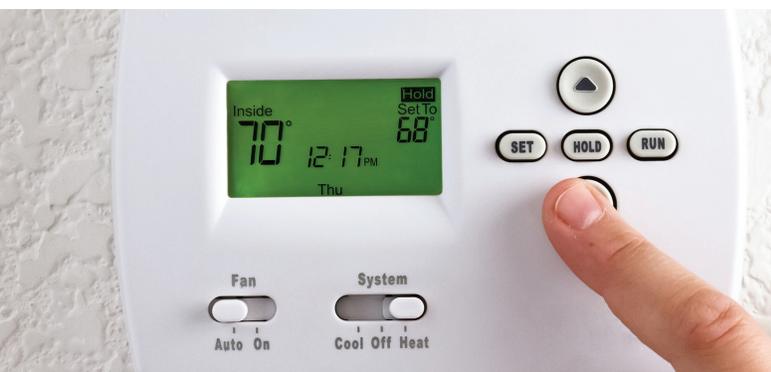
✓ Programmable thermostats
For additional energy efficiency use a programmable thermostat or set your thermostat back when you are away. This allows you to use less energy without sacrificing comfort. Through proper use of pre-programmed settings, a programmable thermostat can save a homeowner in Madison, Wisconsin about \$205 every year according to the U.S. EPA and DOE. Remember to keep the thermostat set at appropriate temperatures for long periods of time, such as during the day when no one is home and through the night when you are sleeping. Resist the urge to override the pre-programmed thermostat settings. Every time you do, you use more energy and may end up paying more on your energy bill.

✓ Ceiling fans
To increase energy efficiency use a ceiling fan in combination with an air conditioner. The airflow produced by the ceiling fan creates a wind-chill effect, making you feel cooler. Be sure to turn the fan off when you're not in the room to save energy—ceiling fans cool people, not rooms.

✓ Schedule a Home Performance assessment
The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program provides a home assessment to help you identify where your home is misusing energy by letting the cool air out and the warm air in. The evaluation includes a comprehensive inspection of all energy systems in the home. Once the assessment is complete, you receive a report that identifies problems and recommends solutions that help you stay comfortable while being energy efficient. Call 800.762.7077 to schedule an assessment today!

✓ Shades, drapes and sunscreens
Close draperies or shades on south- and west-facing windows to prevent the sun from heating up your home. If you want to maintain your view while keeping out the sun's heat you can install sun screens on the outside of your windows. Sun screens can be easily removed in the winter when you want to let sunlight in to heat your home.

✓ Landscaping
Landscaping is a natural and beautiful way to keep your home cool in summer. Carefully positioned trees can provide shade to keep your home cooler thus saving up to 25 percent of a typical household's energy used for cooling. In addition to adding aesthetic value and environmental quality to your home, a well-placed tree, shrub, or vine can deliver effective shade, act as a windbreak, and reduce overall energy bills.





Other ways to save

 **Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)**
Ninety percent of the energy used by an incandescent bulb generates heat. ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs produce a fraction of the heat, use 75 percent less energy, and last up to 10 times longer than incandescents. By replacing the five most-used light bulbs with ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs, you can save about \$35 each year in energy costs.

 **Dishwashers**
To reduce the amount of hot water used for dishwashing, you should only run your dishwasher when it's fully loaded. Also, if available, use the dishwasher's energy-saving settings such as the partial load setting or the no heat drying cycle.

 **Clothes dryer**
A dryer operating an extra 15 minutes per load can cost you up to \$34 every year. While the weather is warm, let the sun dry clothes naturally instead.

 **Look for the STAR**
By looking for the ENERGY STAR when replacing appliances or electronics, you can save energy and money on a variety of qualified products including, but not limited to, clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators and computers.

Take action today. See results tomorrow.

Lower energy costs are the results when Wisconsin residents tap into energy efficiency and renewable energy. To find out how you can reduce energy costs and improve the comfort and durability of your home, call Focus on Energy at **800.762.7077** or visit **focusonenergy.com**.

Learn more at focusonenergy.com

Find more detailed information about each of the summer tips listed on Focus on Energy's website in the information center. Focus on Energy offers programs and resources to help Wisconsin residents lower energy costs and utility bills.

energystar.gov

The ENERGY STAR program provides information on energy-efficient products that meet ENERGY STAR standards.

For more information,
call 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.



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Partnering with Wisconsin utilities

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