

Your Home Energy Savings Check List

Before making these changes, please contact one of the energy experts at your local electric cooperative

Attic Check List

- Make sure soffit vents are not blocked with insulation.
- Bath, stove and dryer vents should vent to the outdoors, not into the attic.
- If joists in your attic are visible, you need more insulation.
- Insulation depth should be 10-12 inches of batt or 13-17 inches of blown-in.
- If light is visible from the living area below, you need to seal air leaks and add insulation.
- Insulate and weather-strip the attic access.
- Minimize the amount of flooring placed over attic insulation.
- Avoid storing boxes over your insulation.

Living Quarters Check List

- Set thermostat on 78 or higher in summer and 68 or lower in winter. For every degree below 78 in summer, or above 68 in winter energy costs could increase by 3%.
- Check for air leaks around windows and doors.
- Replace cracked caulking.
- Replace single pane windows with double pane.
- Avoid covering air vents and return registers with plants, furniture and rugs.
- Fill holes around pipes under the sink with caulk or other sealant.
- Repair leaky faucets.
- Buy energy-efficient appliances. Look for the EnergyStar label that compares energy use among similar products.
- Close the refrigerator door on a dollar bill. If it slides easily, clean or replace the gasket (cool air is escaping).
- Dust refrigerator coils.
- Install gaskets behind switch plates on exterior walls to keep the cold air out.
- Wash dishes and clothes only when you have a full load.
- Keep drains and filters clean so that your dishwasher and dryer can work efficiently.
- Use microwave or small appliances (they use less energy than big ones).
- Use flow restrictors on shower heads.
- Use insulating shades and window coverings to reduce heat loss and gain.
- Use ceiling fans. In summer raise your thermostat up 2-4 degrees when fans are in use. □ Turn fans off when you leave the room.
- Install compact fluorescent bulbs (they can reduce lighting energy expenses by 75%).

- Use a programmable thermostat if you are routinely away from home during the day. It will automatically adjust before you return.
- Close fireplace damper when not in use.
- Have a professional energy auditor inspect your home. Consider having a blower door test performed to quantify and target your home's air losses.

Outdoors Check List

- Don't let debris or shrubbery hamper air flow around your outdoor heat pump unit.
- Clothes dryer should vent at least 2 feet away from outdoor heating and cooling components.
- Efficient exterior doors are insulated or solid.
- Place weather-stripping around your doors.

Basement or Crawl Space Check List

- Insulate ceiling of the basement or crawl space with R-11 batts. Insulation vapor barrier (brown paper side) should be toward the living space.
- Straighten crimped duct work.*
- Seal duct leaks with mastic adhesive paste.
- Insulate duct work with R-4 to R-6 batt insulation.
- Call HVAC contractor for an overall inspection of heating and cooling system.*
- Change air filters monthly.
- Repair pipe leaks.*
- Insulate exposed hot water pipes.
- Cover dirt floor of a crawl space with continuous vapor barrier.

Water Heater Check List

- Install water heater blanket around electric water heater.
- Set water heater temperature to 120 or "medium."**
- Place a timer on your water heater to heat water for the times you use it.

*Professional assistance may be required.

For more energy savings tips visit www.eere.energy.gov

Where Can You Save Energy?

A guide to energy efficiency and conservation at home



Central Virginia Electric Cooperative

Where Can You Save Energy?

