

Saving on Utilities



SUB FOR SANTA



Turn off the water while lathering up, brushing your teeth, shaving, washing your hands, etc. You use about 11.6 gallons a day showering. By turning off the tap, you can save approximately a third of what you'd normally use.



Fix leaky faucets. One drop per second makes 2.5 ounces of wasted water per hour. That is 1,320 gallons per year!



Turn down your water heater thermostat. Thermostats are often set to 140°F when 120°F is usually fine.



Exchange your old shower head with a new one that adds air to the water. While the water jet remains the same you will save up to 50% of water.



Wrap your water heater in an insulation blanket, available in hardware stores.



Replace your five most used light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and save up to \$60 each year in energy cost. These bulbs not only use two-thirds less energy, but they also last years longer. Switch off the light when you leave a room.



Do you have any chinks or gaps in your windows or front door? Fix them so the winter cold won't sneak into your home.



Figure out your ideal room temperature. Take into consideration that by cooling down your rooms by only 2°F you can save up to 5%!



Avoid placing your refrigerator or freezer next to a stove or heater. The oven and heater will cause the fridge to use more energy in order to keep cool. If you can't avoid it, place a sheet of Styrofoam between the cool and the warm appliances.



Fill up your car in the morning when it is still cool outside. Gas becomes denser in cooler temperatures. Since gas pumps only measure the volume of fuel not the density, you'll get more gas for your money.



Make sure your tire pressure is correct. Gas mileage improves by more than 3% when your tires are inflated to the proper pressure.



Don't cruise the streets with extra weight. Remove any items in your trunk that make your car needlessly heavy.



By driving defensively and keeping sufficient space, you can avoid slowing-down and accelerating, which eat gas.



Remember to turn your car off when you'll be idling for a long period of time. (Picking a child up from school, etc.)

For more ideas on cutting down your bills:

Get your own energy consultant for free. To find out how to qualify and more energy saving tips, visit:

www.thermwise.com

Web-based Do-It-Yourself energy audit tool: www.hes.lbl.gov

How to's on almost anything: www.ehow.com

Free Department of Energy resources. Obtain a free English or Spanish booklet, *Energy Savers: Tips on Saving Energy and Money at Home*, by calling 1-877-337-3463

Library Resources:

[365 Ways to Save Gas](#) by Ronald M. Weiers

Community Action Resources (373-8200):

Heat Program, Energy Conservation Class, Self-Help Weatherization