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Helpful Steps To More Money In Your Pocket

Step 1. In the winter, set your thermostat at 68°. Your heating cost will increase 3% for each degree above 68°. In the summer, set your air conditioning thermostat at 78°. Anything lower will increase your cost by 5% for every degree below 78°.

Step 2. Caulk and weather-strip around all windows and doors to prevent heating & cooling loss. This can save 2-4% on your yearly energy bill.

Step 3. Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's). They use 75% less energy and last 8 times longer.

Step 4. Check the ducts on your HVAC system for leaks. Leaky ductwork often accounts for 10-30% of your total heating & cooling costs.

Step 5. Dry one load of clothes immediately after another to minimize heat loss. Do not over-dry your laundry. An electric dryer operating an extra 15 minutes a load can cost you up to \$40 a year in wasted energy.

Step 6. Programmable thermostats can save you as much as \$150 in energy cost per year. Program it to turn up the heat (in winter) or air conditioning (in summer) shortly before you get home or shortly before you wake up.

Step 7. Install low-flow shower heads. You can reduce your water use by 50% and probably won't even notice the difference.

Step 8. Power off all home electronics (computers, printers, fax machines, stereo equipment, speakers, DVD players, etc) when not to be used for an extended period of time. This can save you over \$100 per year in energy cost.

Step 9. Let cooked foods cool to room temperature before putting them in the refrigerator. Hot foods and their containers will raise the temperature in the fridge and make it work harder.

Step 10. Air-dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher's heat drying option.

Step 11. Consider replacing older model electrical appliances (refrigerators) with more energy efficient ENERGY STAR rated appliances.

Step 12. Set the refrigerator temperature at 36° to 39° F and the freezer at 0° to 5° F.

Step 13. Install foam insulation gaskets in all switches & outlets located on the exterior walls of your home. Also put insulating plugs in all outlets that are not in use. This can save 2-3% per year in energy cost.

- Step 14.** Add insulation where needed to attic, crawlspaces, basement ceilings and any accessible exterior walls.
- Step 15.** Keep heat sources such as lamps & appliances away from HVAC thermostats.
- Step 16.** Keep the freezer full. The fuller the freezer, the less cold air you lose when opening the door.
- Step 17.** Replace fireplace screen with glass doors and make sure damper is closed when not in use.
- Step 18.** Make sure all external doors and windows are tightly closed when heating or cooling your home.
- Step 19.** Defrost frozen foods in the refrigerator before cooking.
- Step 20.** Operate your dishwasher and washing machine only with full loads.
- Step 21.** Reduce hot water cost by taking shorter showers and using cold water for the rinse cycle in your washing machine.
- Step 22.** Use low-wattage bulbs in areas where lighting is not critical such as closets, pantries and storage rooms.
- Step 23.** In summer, keep curtains closed on the south, east and west sides of the house during the day to help keep cool.
- Step 24.** Use the microwave for cooking when possible. It cooks faster and doesn't create as much heat as a stove burner.
- Step 25.** Change your heat pump filters monthly. This will allow your HVAC system to operate more efficiently and prolong the life of the unit.
- Step 26.** Plant a tree! Shade trees placed on the south or southwest side of your home will keep it cooler.
- Step 27.** Once a year, drain about (1) gallon of water from your water heater to remove sediment. This will provide a more efficient, longer lasting water heater.
- Step 28.** When stove-top cooking, match the size of the pot or pan to the burner and cover them with lids while cooking.
- Step 29.** Lower the temperature setting on your water heater to 120° F.
- Step 30.** Use a timer or the interior oven light to check on the progress of cooking food rather than opening the oven door.
- Step 31.** Use foam insulation to seal around floor and wall areas where plumbing and electrical pipe penetrations have been made.
- Step 32.** Area rugs on hardwood floors can add warmth to a room. However, never allow rugs or furniture to block needed vents.
- Step 33.** Make sure to clean the filter of your clothes dryer prior to every load. Clogged filters waste energy and are a safety hazard.
- Step 34.** Joints between the chimney and the wall are a common location for serious air leaks within the home. Remove the trim and apply heat resistant caulking.
- Step 35.** Plan meals so several foods can cook simultaneously in the oven.
- Step 36.** Repair any leaky faucets within the home. One drop per second can add up to 165 gallons of wasted water per month.
- Step 37.** Turn off the breaker of your water heater if you are going to be away from home for an extended period of time.
- Step 38.** Use only cold water for your garbage disposal.
- Step 39.** In winter, open the curtains on the sunny side of the house to let the warmth in and close them at night to reduce

heat loss.

Step 40. Unplug cell phone chargers when not in use. This can save you about \$3.00 per month in energy cost.

Step 41. To maximize savings with a laptop, put the AC adapter on a power strip that can be turned off. The transformer in the AC adapter draws power continuously, even when the laptop is not plugged into the adapter.

Step 42. When washing, use a fast spin speed to extract as much water as possible from your clothes. This will reduce the amount of time your clothes have to spend in the dryer.

Step 43. Read the labels on your clothes. Hot water isn't always your best washing option. Many fabrics do best in cold water. Always rinse in cold water, even if you wash in hot.

Step 44. When air conditioning, turn off all unused lights. Lights and appliances generate heat and make your air conditioner work harder.

Step 45. Replace worn seals on your refrigerator and freezer and clean coils regularly to keep the compressor running efficiently.

Step 46. Don't let hot water run when shaving.

Step 47. If your water heater is located in an unconditioned area, add pipe insulation to the first 5' of pipe leading from the water heater and install an insulation jacket.

Step 48. Grill out in the summer to reduce your oven's heat inside your home.

Step 49. Have your heat pump system tuned up annually by a certified HVAC contractor to keep it running efficiently.

Step 50. Keep your HVAC unit clean and clear of debris and weeds.