



Winter Efficiency Tips

Set your heating system thermostat to 68°F (or even lower if you can bear it) and bump it down to 56 - 60°F when you leave for an extended period of time.

Setting the thermostat lower will keep your heating unit from working as hard to overcome outside temperatures.

Keeping your home cool at night - and bundling up with blankets, socks and warm pajamas - can help keep your bill a little lower each month.

Take advantage of solar energy! Open curtains on your south-facing windows during winter days to allow free heat into your home. Close window coverings after the sun goes down to avoid losing that heat!

Make sure your ceiling fans are rotating in a clockwise direction. Setting the fan to clockwise for the winter will push warm air down and “trap” it where you want it! Set the rotation speed to a low level.

Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.

Use a humidifier to add moisture to the air. The air inside your home can become very dry. Moist air feels warmer and holds heat better, so a humidifier can help you feel comfortable when your thermostat is set at a lower temperature.



Summer Efficiency Tips

Set your air conditioner thermostat to 78°F (or even higher if you can bear it) and bump it up to 85°F when you leave for an extended period of time.

Operate your dryer and dishwasher at night on hot days and let your dishes air dry.

Avoid heat-generating incandescent lighting and use a microwave, toaster oven or outdoor grill instead of the oven when possible.

It’s best to avoid the use of major appliances between 2 and 8 p.m. Why? Appliances generate additional heat - which your cooling unit must overcome.

Close blinds during the day and open them at night.

Set your ceiling fans to rotate in a counter-clockwise direction. This will create a “wind chill” effect that make the room temperature feel cooler.



General Efficiency Tips

- Caulk and weatherstrip around windows and doors to stop air leaks.
- Make sure you have at least 10” of blown attic insulation over all heated and cooled areas. (Approximately R38)
- Seal gaps in floors and walls around pipes and wiring.
- Service your HVAC unit ANNUALLY and change air filters MONTHLY. Inspect ductwork and repair any gaps.
- Keep your outside air unit clean and clear of debris.
- Keep all windows and doors located near your thermostat closed tightly.
- Keep heat sources such as lamps and appliances away from your thermostat.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents or LEDs – they use 75% less energy.
- Use low-watt bulbs where lighting is not critical.
- Turn off lights, televisions and other appliances when not in use.
- Install aerating, low-flow faucets and shower heads.
- Fix any leaky faucets – one drop per second can add up to 165 gallons a month.
- Wrap your water heater with insulation or install an insulating blanket.
- Reduce hot water use by taking shorter showers and using cold water for the rinse cycle in your washer.



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Rebates and on-bill financing are also available. Find more info at www.2escore.com and at www.decatrutilities.com.



More General Efficiency Tips

- Use power strips for electronics and turn off strips when equipment is not in use.
- Set the refrigerator to 36° to 39° F and freezer at 0° to 5° F. Keep freezer full.
- Use the microwave when possible – it cooks faster and doesn't create as much heat.
- Air-dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher's heat drying option.
- Run your dishwasher and clothes washer only when full.
- Match the size of your pot or pan to the size of the burner.
- Make sure your dryer's outside vent is clear and clean the lint filter after every load.
- Consider replacing your older refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR refrigerator.
- Install foam gaskets behind electric-outlet and switch-plate covers. Dry one load of clothes immediately after another to minimize heat loss.
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator before cooking

What is ENERGY STAR?

ENERGY STAR products are independently certified to save energy without sacrificing features or functionality. Saving energy helps prevent climate change.



ENERGY STAR appliances include appliances, building products, electronics, HVAC equipment, office equipment and much more.

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For as little as \$4 a month, you can support wind, solar and biogas energy production techniques, and breathe a little easier knowing you're taking positive action to reduce your carbon footprint.



Each \$4 block you buy ensures that 150 kilowatt-hours of clean, renewable energy from wind, solar or biogas generation is added to TVA's electricity mix.

How much of a change can you make? The average Tennessee Valley home uses 14,400 kWh of power each year. Buying just two blocks of Green Power Switch would offset about 25 percent of the average home's electricity use with renewable energy.

What about businesses? Thousands of corporate and institutional customers are buying renewable energy credits (RECs) to help reduce their environmental impact and demonstrate a concrete interest in environmental issues.

Note: Sign up for Green Power Switch blocks at <https://www.tva.com/Energy/Renewable-Energy-Solutions/Green-Power-Switch>. DU will add the selected amount to your monthly bill.



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