

Little Effort = Big Savings!

How to Save Energy in Your Home!

There are a number of ways to compound the available energy savings in your home.

In each room of your home there are opportunities for energy (and \$\$\$) savings.

Even choosing just a few of these measures can help you add up the energy Savings in your home!

Home Heating

- The Thermostat
 - Position the thermostat away from windows, doors and possible drafts and keep area around thermostat clear
 - Install a programmable thermostat to adjust automatically to your home's temperatures
 - Every degree you lower your thermostat represents **savings**. If you usually keep your thermostat at 70° and lower it to 68°, you will save 2% of your heating costs.
 - Don't change your thermostat setting more than 4 to 6°. Turning the thermostat up and down causes your heating system to work harder and increases your bill.
- Furnace Maintenance
 - **Change your furnace filter monthly** or according to the manufacturer's recommendations
 - Have your furnace serviced and cleaned at the beginning of each home heating season
- Radiators and Warm Air Registers
 - Turn down radiators and close heat registers in unused rooms
 - This can save about \$50/year.
 - **Make sure heat registers and air return ducts are clear** of furniture, carpet and curtains/draperies
- Ducts and Pipes
 - Insulate ducts and pipes
 - Repair and/or seal damaged or leaking ductwork -- Small holes or loose seals in ductwork can account for as much as 30% in lost energy
 - **Clean your ductwork** - Keep ductwork clear of dust, lint and debris which can block air vents and reduce the efficiency of your furnace

Water and Water Heating

<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/index.php>

- Lower your **hot water tank's temperature to 120°F**
- Turn the hot water heating system on "pilot" when you will be away from home for an extended period
- Insulate the hot and cold water lines to your hot water tank

- Drain sediment from the hot water tank twice a year
- **Fix leaky faucets** – A dripping hot water faucet can cost over \$35/year
- Take showers instead of baths
- Turn water off while shaving, washing or brushing your teeth
- Install **low-flow aerators on faucets/showers**
 - Aerators reduce the amount of water you use without a noticeable change in flow
 - A water saving showerhead can save as much as \$40/year

Fireplace

- Close all unused fireplaces
- Close the damper in your chimney when you are not using the fireplace
- Install glass doors on the fireplace to prevent heat from escaping through the chimney
- Seal off fireplace flue area (when not in use) to prevent cold air leakage

Appliances

- **Turn off or unplug appliances when not in use**
- Washers and Dryers
 - **Clean dryer lint every time** you use this dryer – this can save up to \$60/year
 - Check and clean your dryer vent periodically
 - **Wash and dry full loads only**
 - Use cold or warm water for washing and always use cold to rinse
 - Dry loads of clothing back to back, taking advantage of the leftover heat
 - If your dryer has an **automatic cycle**, use it – It will prevent you from continuing to run your dryer after the clothes are dry
- Make sure the pilot light and burners on your gas range are adjusted properly
- Utilize ceiling fans
 - In winter, ceiling fans push warm air that collects near the ceiling around and back down. In summer, they help circulate cooler air around the room.

The Attic

- Insulate attic space -- Proper insulation can reduce your energy bill by 20-30%
- Ventilate the attic space to promote good circulation
- Check the fit of your attic access door or pull-down stairs – energy can escape into your attic if the door is not properly fitted and sealed

Windows and Doors

- In winter months use insulated curtains
 - Close your curtains at night to prevent loss of heat through windows, open during the day to allow sunshine to warm the room
- Replace any missing caulk, worn weather-stripping or broken glass that may be letting in cold air – This can save up to 10% on your energy bill
- Keep windows and doors tightly closed during cold weather
- Install storm windows and doors, or cover windows with plastic
- Use draft guards on doors that open to unheated areas

Lighting

- Replace incandescent bulbs with **compact fluorescent light bulbs**
 - CFL bulbs may cost more initially but they last longer and use less energy, resulting in an overall monetary savings
- Turn off lights when you are not using them or are leaving a room
- Inspect and clean light bulbs regularly
 - Grime from cooking, smoking and dust can make a light bulb dirty, reducing the light it produces

The Kitchen

- Run the garbage disposal with cold water
- **Use the dishwasher** – studies show they use less water than washing/rinsing by hand
 - **Air dry your dishes** instead of using the dishwasher's drying cycle
 - Run only full loads of dishes
- Use exhaust fans that vent to the outside as little as possible in the winter months to avoid sending warm home air to the outside
- Keep pots and pans properly covered to conserve cooking heat
- Adjust the flame so that the tip (which is the hottest part of the flame) just reaches the bottom of the pan
 - If the flame extends out from under the bottom of the pan, then it is set too high
 - The flame should also be an even blue color
- Begin the self-cleaning cycle when your oven is still hot from cooking
- Do not open the oven door to check on food more than necessary – up to 25% of the heat escapes each time you do

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<https://www.firstenergycorp.com/Penelec>

In the search bar type “Home Energy Analyzer”

If you're account is not already registered on line, *register it* and utilize this tool!
Find areas of your home using the most energy, compare your energy use to your neighbors,
and receive energy saving tips specific to *your* home!