

# DIY SAVINGS TIPS

Those chores you do every day? The dishes. The laundry. The cooking. They all help determine the amount of your energy bill. Here's some tips to help manage your usage.



## Kitchen

- Stagger pans on upper and lower oven racks. The improved air flow allows food to cook more quickly and efficiently because air can circulate freely.
- Use glass or ceramic pans in ovens. Then you can turn down the temperature about 25 degrees and foods will cook just as quickly.
- Use a timer. Don't open the oven door frequently to check the food, because each time you do the oven temperature drops by 25 degrees.
- Run only a full dishwasher on the automatic energy-savings cool-dry cycle. If it doesn't have this feature, turn it off after the final rinse and let the dishes air dry.
- Refrigerator/freezer:
  - Keep your refrigerator closed while deciding what to eat. Each time you open the fridge door, the compressor has to run for eight to ten minutes to keep the cold inside.
  - Set the temperature in your refrigerator between 37 degrees and 40 degrees.
  - Keep your freezer section at 5 degrees. If you have a separate freezer for longer-term storage, it should be kept at zero degrees.
  - Vacuum your refrigerator's coils, located on the back or underneath your appliance. Regular cleaning can improve your refrigerators efficiency up to 15% or more.

## Water Heating

- Set the temperature on your hot water tank to 120 degrees. Extremely hot water can lead to higher energy costs and even scalding accidents.
- Check your hot tub cover for escaping steam. Insulation blankets help keep the tub toasty.
- Keep showers short and use low-flow shower heads. A short shower uses less hot water than a bath.
- Fix leaky faucets. A small drip can be the equivalent of wasting a bath tub full of hot water each month.
- Insulate water pipes. It's easy and will prevent hot water in the pipes from cooling too quickly.

## Laundry Room

- Wash laundry in cold water. In top-load models, about 90 percent of the cost per load is to heat the water.
- Do laundry after 7:00 p.m. This reduces unwanted heat and humidity in your home.
- Dry clothes outside on a line. Less heat from a dryer for less energy usage.
- Wash only full loads in your washing machine. Adjust the water level as needed.
- Clean the lint filter in your dryer after every load.

