



Live Smart. Live Green. Live Well.

Keep green in your pocket and on the planet while adding comfort at home.

Top 10 Energy Saving Tips for Renters

Even if you don't own your home or appliances you can save money on the energy and water they use. After all, it's your money going out the window and down the drain. Here are 10 no/low-cost, portable and easy changes you can make to save money immediately on your utility bill while also helping the environment.

1. Switch to Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Savings: \$100 per year

Why: Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) use 75 percent less energy than the typical incandescent light bulbs used in homes.

How: CFLs are available in most grocery, drug and home improvement stores. Read the package to get the right CFL for the right use.

Cost: About \$2 per CFL bulb, but they will last 10 times longer.

2. Set Your Thermostat at 78° in summer, 68° in winter

Savings: \$100 per year

Why: Your air conditioner and heater will work less, using less energy. Turn your thermostat up or down 5° accordingly at night or when leaving your home for an hour or more to save even more energy and money.

Cost: \$0

3. Fix a Leaky Toilet

Savings: \$170 per year

Why: A leaky toilet can waste 100 gallons of water a day

How: To see if your toilet has a leak, add a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank. Wait 15 minutes to see if the colored water leaks into the toilet bowl. If it does, your toilet is leaking. There are many simple fixes such as adjusting the tightness of the handle, the rubber flap, the chain or the tank water level.

Cost: simple fixes—\$0-10

4. Plug Leaks Around Windows and Doors

Savings: \$100 per year

Why: Air leaks are wasted energy and dollars

How: Caulk and self-adhesive weather stripping can be purchased at hardware and home improvement stores. Use your hands, a candle flame or a piece of thread on a windy day to determine air leaks around windows or doors.

Plug the air leaks or seal all around doors and windows.

Cost: \$5

5. Change Your Showerhead to a Low-Flow Model

Savings: \$60 per year

Why: New showerheads deliver 2.5 gallons of water per minute, while older ones are as high as 8 gpm. The water pressure feels the same and you may not even notice a difference, except in your lower water bill. You can also save water usage by turning it off while soaping up and shampooing.

How: Low-flow showerheads are available wherever showerheads are sold, such as home improvement stores. Use a wrench to remove the old showerhead, then apply joint sealer or tape following package directions and use the wrench to put on the new showerhead.

Cost: Starting at \$6

6. Refrigerator

Savings: \$50

Why: When your refrigerator is not sealed properly, has dirty coils or thick frost in the freezer, it has to work harder to cool the air inside. That uses more energy and increases your electric bill.

How: Dollar bill test—close the refrigerator door on a dollar bill. If the bill falls or you can easily pull it out the seals are not tight. Use a hairdryer to heat up the seals until they conform better to the

door. To clean coils behind the refrigerator, use a vacuum cleaner attachment. Defrost by chipping out ice and melting. The refrigerator temperature should be set at 35° and the freezer at 0°.

Cost: \$0

7. Dishwasher: run only when full and air dry

Savings: \$30 per year

Why: You'll run it less often, using less water. Not using the heat dryer will save significantly on energy consumption.

Cost: \$0

8. Power down electronics

Savings: \$100

Why: Many idle appliances—TVs, VCRs, cable boxes, DVD and CD players, burglar alarms, microwaves—continue to consume energy when switched off to keep display clocks lit and memory chips and remote controls working.

Cost: \$0

9. If you have a washing machine, use cold water

Savings: \$100 per year

Why: Six loads in hot water costs about \$9.90, while six loads in cold water costs 90¢

Cost: \$0

10. Close the blinds

Savings: \$100 per year

Why: Reduce heat gain through glass with blinds, curtains and shades.

Cost: \$0 if you already have window coverings