

# Energy Efficiency Tips

**Saving money and energy is easier than you think.**

Help reduce emissions in the atmosphere and put a little more money in your pocket. Making these small, inexpensive adjustments can make a big difference!



## Try these quick and easy ways to save:

- Set thermostats between 65° and 70° during the winter, and at 58° when away from the house for more than a few hours. By turning your thermostat back 10°-15° for eight straight hours, you can save about 5%-15% a year on your heating bill—a savings of as much as 1% for each degree.
- Turn down thermostats automatically without sacrificing comfort by installing a programmable thermostat. By turning your thermostat back 10%-15% for eight hours per day, you can cut your annual heating bills by as much as 10% per year.
- Change or clean furnace air filters once a month during the heating season. Furnaces consume less energy if they "breathe" more easily. Use the arrival of your natural gas bill as your reminder to change the filter.
- Warm air rises, so use registers to direct warm airflow across the floor.
- Close vents and doors in unused rooms. Close dampers on unused fireplaces.
- Set your water heater to 120° or the medium temperature setting. Drain a quart of water from the bottom of your water heating tank every three months to remove sediment that can hamper the efficiency of your unit. Water heating is a typical family's third-largest energy expense, accounting for about 14% of utility bills.
- Insulate water heaters with insulation blankets in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.
- Install water-flow restrictors in shower heads and faucets.
- If radiators are located near cold walls, place a sheet of aluminum foil between the radiator and the wall to reflect heat back into the room.
- Run washing machines and clothes dryers with a full load.
- On sunny days, open curtains and blinds on windows that receive direct sunlight. Close them at night or on cloudy days to insulate against the cold air outside.

## Keep the cold out and the costs down.

Reduce air leaks and cut as much as 10% from your monthly energy bill. Be sure to use caulk or weather-stripping to seal leaks around:

- **Floors, walls, ceilings** (contributes to about 31% of energy loss)
- **Ducts** (15% of energy loss)
- **Fireplace** (14% of energy loss)
- **Plumbing** (13% of energy loss)
- **Doors** (11% of energy loss)
- **Windows** (10% of energy loss)
- **Fans and vents** (4% of energy loss)
- **Electric outlets** (2% of energy loss)

## Save big with long-term improvements, too.

Natural gas appliances are more efficient than electric appliances. The same amount of electricity would cost you approximately two to three times as much, on average, as natural gas.

Plus, consider having your home evaluated for energy efficiency. Through the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program, a participating Building Performance Institute (BPI)-accredited contractor will assess your home, make recommendations for energy improvements and provide a cost estimate to do the improvements.

If you are of low to moderate income, you can make your home more energy efficient and reduce your utility bills, if eligible, with the Assisted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program.

## Improvements include:

- Making sure the recommended levels of insulation are installed in your attic and basement.
- Replacing older furnaces with a high-efficiency model. Even if it's still in good working condition, an older furnace could be using about 15% more fuel than a new furnace. And an old water heater could be just as inefficient as an older furnace. When shopping for new appliances, compare energy efficiency ratings and annual operating costs.
- Installing storm or thermal windows and doors or double-paned glass. A less expensive alternative is plastic sheeting, which can be temporarily fastened over doors and windows to prevent drafts and retain heat.



## Discover more ways to save.

Visit the following websites for more information on forecasted energy prices, detailed home energy conservation strategies and energy-efficient home improvement materials:

- **aga.org**—The American Gas Association is a valuable resource for understanding the benefits and availability of clean, safe, reliable natural gas.
- **energysavers.gov**—The Department of Energy offers additional information on general energy conservation tips.
- **ase.org**—The Alliance to Save Energy regularly posts information to help consumers save money, increase comfort and reduce pollution through energy efficiency.
- **nyscrda.ny.gov**—The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority offers energy-saving tips and information on selecting a contractor for your energy upgrades.

## Enjoy money-saving rebates with National Fuel's Conservation Incentive Program.

As a National Fuel customer in the Western New York service area, you can enjoy a number of money-saving rebates when you replace specified appliances with qualifying, energy-efficient natural gas models.

If you have a question, problem or request, please call us **Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.**

**Buffalo:** 716-686-6123

**All other areas:** 1-800-365-3234

For 24/7 assistance with **natural gas emergencies:**  
1-800-444-3130