



## Energy Efficiency Tips

- Weatherize your home—caulk and weather-strip any doors and windows that leak.
- Properly maintain and clean heating equipment and replace filters regularly.
- Remember that new windows must be installed correctly to avoid air leaks around the frame. Look for a reputable, qualified installer.
- Install awnings on south and west facing windows during the day
- Install white window shades, drapes, or blinds to reflect heat away from the house.
- Close your curtains and shades at night, open them during the day.
- Conduct an [energy audit](#) of your home to find air leaks and to check for the proper level of insulation. Common sources of air leaks include cracks around windows and doors, gaps along baseboard, mail chutes, cracks in brick, siding, stucco or foundation, or where any external lines (phone, cable, electric, and gas) enter the home.
- To test for air leaks on your own, on a windy day, hold a lit candle next to windows, doors, electrical outlets, or light fixtures to test for leaks.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120 Degrees Fahrenheit.
- Insulate the first 6 feet of the hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater.



Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy