



Economic Development and Retail Services Department

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Energy Conservation

As prices for everything from food to fuel continue to rise across the nation, we're all looking for ways to save. You can help ease the financial pressure on your wallets by taking control of your energy use.

Seal and Insulate

You wouldn't throw money out the window, right? Well, leaky windows and other gaps that let in air can add costly dollars to your heating and cooling bills. Ensuring your home is tightly sealed and well insulated will keep your family comfortable and make an impact on your heating and cooling costs.

Insulate Walls, Ceilings, Attics and Floors

It's often the most cost-effective way to improve your energy efficiency and comfort.

ENERGY STAR® estimates that you can save up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs, or 10 percent on your total annual energy bill, by sealing and insulating. To earn the biggest savings, add insulation in the attic.

There are several common types of insulation:

- Fiberglass (in both batt and blown forms),
- Cellulose (rigid foam board and spray foam).

When correctly installed, insulation can deliver comfort and lower energy bills during the hottest and coldest seasons of the year.

In houses with forced-air heating and cooling systems, ducts are used to distribute air throughout the house. Insulating those ducts can save money on your energy bill.

- In a typical house, about 20 percent of the air that moves through the duct system is lost due to leaks and poorly-sealed connections.

Seal Gaps Around Your Home

Walk around your home and note any gaps. Look for gaps near:

- Outdoor faucets
- Plumbing
- Under sinks
- Where utility lines enter your home

Check the exterior of your home especially at the corners where the siding or trim joins the masonry or siding. Caulking and weather-stripping are your best and most inexpensive options for sealing up those gaps. Silicone caulk is recommended for most applications. It sticks to any surface, remains flexible, does not shrink and has a 12 to 30-year life.

When it comes to insulation, don't forget your water heater.

- Water heaters seven years or older will benefit from an insulation blanket. This small investment will keep your water hot and help take the heat off your energy bill.