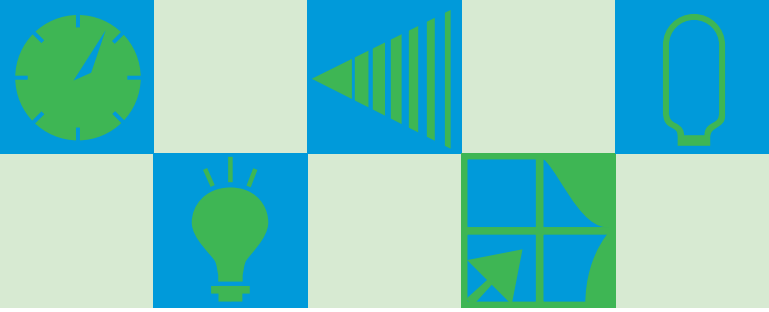
Everyday Energy-Saving Tips

Helping you save **ENERGY**, **MONEY**, and the **ENVIRONMENT**

conEdison



At Home With Energy Efficiency

Whether it's a house, an apartment, a co-op, or a condo, it's where you live, and you want to be comfortable. That's one reason we've prepared this booklet. You can enjoy comfort and convenience while making your home energy-efficient and environmentally friendly.

This booklet contains ideas you can use to trim energy consumption, save money, and get the most value from your energy dollar. Some suggestions are for summer, some for winter, and others will save energy all year long. There are some products mentioned that will help you save energy. Most can be purchased in hardware stores, lighting showrooms, home centers, and elsewhere. You can install most on your own, but for some you may want to use a professional.

Read this booklet, then have a look around your home. You'll find lots of ways to put these energy-saving tips to work. ■

WAYS TO SAVE YEAR ROUND

Save on lighting Costs

Dim down for savings

What to do: Replace ordinary light switches with dimmers.

How to do it: Dimmers fit in the same wallboxes as the switches they replace, and they are connected to the same electrical wires. All dimmers come with installation instructions. Read the instructions to decide if you're able to make the installation yourself. If not, call a licensed electrician to do the job.

How it saves: Dimmers let you set bulb brightness to suit different needs. Whenever lights are set at less than full brightness, you save energy.

Turn out the lights – automatically

What to do: Replace ordinary switches with motion sensors

How to do it: Motion sensors fit in the same wallboxes as the switches they replace, and they are connected to the same electrical wires. All motion sensors come with installation instructions. Read the instructions to decide if you're able to make the installation yourself. If not, call a licensed electrician to do the job.

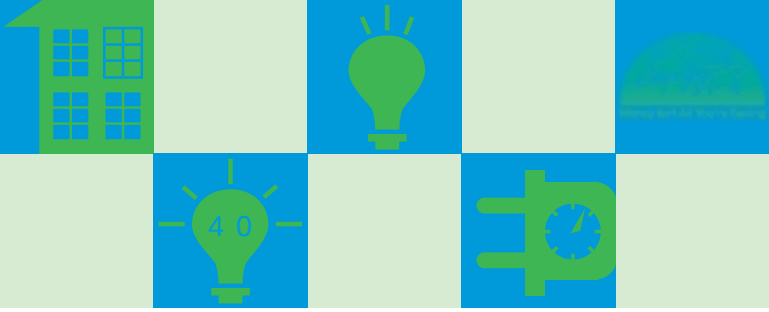
How it saves: In every home, lights are left on when they're not needed. Motion sensors monitor a room for the presence of people. When someone enters the room, lights go on automatically. If the room has nobody inside, the device turns lights off automatically so you don't light an unoccupied room.

High technology means high efficiency

What to do: Replace ordinary incandescent bulbs with new compact fluorescent bulbs

How to do it: Simply replace ordinary incandescent bulbs in existing sockets.

How it saves: Compact fluorescent bulbs give the same light levels as the ordinary bulbs they replace, but use from 40% to 60% less energy.



Timed to save

What to do: Use timers to turn your lights on and off when you're away from home

How to do it: Some timers let you plug lamps into them, and they turn the lamp on and off according to your schedule. Another type of timer replaces ordinary wall switches and controls ceiling fixtures. Choose the type you prefer.

How it saves: Leaving the lights on when you're away wastes energy. A timer can switch lights on or off when you're away. That saves energy and adds security to your home.

The right light

What to do: Use lower wattage bulbs whenever you can

How to do it: Buy 25- or 40-watt bulbs for those places where you need some light, but not much. Examples include closets, pantries, and decorative lighting. Use brighter bulbs for reading and work areas.

How it saves: Wattage isn't a measure of brightness, it's a measure of energy usage. The lower the wattage, the less energy used.

Need a little light? Use a little light!

What to do: Use night lights in corridors, children's rooms, bathrooms

How to do it: Simply plug in at any outlet.

How it saves: Leaving lighting fixtures on when not really necessary is inefficient and costs money. Night lights provide a little light when that's enough. They use less energy than higher wattage bulbs, and cost less to operate.

Keep it clean

What to do: Keep bulbs and light fixtures clean

How to do it: Dust and clean fixtures often. Use a duster or soft paper towels. USE CAUTION. Never wet a bare light bulb, and never clean a fixture while it's on.

How it saves: Clean fixtures give you all the light you're paying for.

Take a good look

What to do: Use lamps and fixtures to give only as much light as you need.

How to do it: Have a look around. Try switching a light off.

How it saves: With fewer lights on, you've lowered your energy usage.

Getting the Most From Appliances

Energy Star® for Top Efficiency

What to do: When shopping, choose Energy Star® appliances

How to do it: Look for the Energy Star® label like the one above. You can find it on refrigerators, stoves, freezers, microwave ovens, air conditioners, dryers, electronics, even lamps and smaller appliances, too. All Energy Star® appliances have been designed for maximum efficiency and minimum energy consumption.

How it helps: All Energy Star® products use considerably less energy than other appliances. That means they help conserve energy and lower your energy bills.

The refrigerator – a big energy user in the home

What to do: Your refrigerator is always on. Make it as efficient as possible.

How to do it:

• If you can, position the refrigerator away from direct sunlight and away from heat sources like stoves, ovens, radiators or heating ducts.

• Decide what you want before you open the door. Opening the door for a long time lets cold air out, warm air in.

• Store food in the refrigerator so air can circulate around it, but in the freezer, pack items tightly. If there's extra space, add bags of ice.

• Set the refrigerator temperature at 40 degrees fahrenheit and the freezer at 0 degrees. If your refrigerator has a numbered dial for setting temperature, use a thermometer to check which setting gives you these temperatures.

• Make sure the rubber gaskets on doors provide a tight seal. If they don't, have them fixed.

• Keep the condenser coils clean. Dust them or vacuum them regularly because when the coils aren't clean, the refrigerator uses more energy to keep cool.

• When buying a new refrigerator, consider an Energy Star® model for best efficiency. Also, consider a smaller unit if it meets your needs. You can save energy and money.

How it helps: Every home needs a refrigerator, but cooling air is expensive. Since refrigerators are big energy users, using them efficiently goes a long way to reducing energy usage and lowering energy costs.

Clean sweep

What to do: Get the most efficient use from washers, dryers, and dishwashers

How to do it: Use these appliances only when you have a full load. Use warm or cold water in your washers whenever possible. For your dryer, keep lint filters clean and don't overdry clothing.

How it helps: Every time these appliances go through a cycle, they use very nearly the same amount of energy whether empty or full. So cleaning with full loads makes for best efficiency and best value on your energy dollar.

Hidden losses

What to do: Switch off the "instant on" feature in electronic devices

How to do it: Check the owner's manual provided with televisions, VCRs, CD players, computers, monitors, and other electronic devices for information on how to turn off the "instant on" circuit.

How it helps: Many electronic products have an "instant on" circuit that's always active, even when the device is turned off. This feature uses energy continuously. On some electronic devices, you can choose to turn it off. Shutting off the feature is energy-smart and dollar-wise.

Around the House

Defend against drafts

What to do: Stop drafts coming in near doors, windows, or any air conditioners

How to do it: Check for drafts with a strip of tissue. Do it on a windy day for best results. Just move the tissue along window frames, door frames and air conditioners. If the tissue moves, you've got a leak. Seal leaks around window frames and door frames with caulk or weather-stripping. When it's not cooling season, stop drafts from the air conditioner with covers that slip over the outside of the unit. If you can't reach the outside, mount the cover on the inside.You can buy these covers to fit the size of your air conditioner.

How it helps: Leaks make you uncomfortable in winter or summer, and cost you money. They make the heating and cooling systems work harder. Drafts and leaks work against your comfort, cost you money, and waste energy.

Insulation consideration

What to do: Be sure your home is well insulated

How to do it: Check attics and crawl spaces for proper insulation. If insulation is damaged, or if there's none, install new-technology insulating material with a high "R value." The R value is a measure of insulation effectiveness. The higher the number, the better the insulating performance. You can install insulation yourself or consult a qualified contractor to do the job.

How it helps: Effective insulation acts as a barrier against outside conditions and helps keep your interiors more comfortable. Insulation improves heating and cooling efficiency year round, and cuts down on energy usage. A well-insulated home means lower energy costs, and it's also more comfortable.

Drip dry

What to do: Stop leaks at faucets, toilets, tubs, showers

How to do it: Identify any leaking plumbing fixtures in your home. For faucets, showers, and tubs, leaks can usually be repaired with replacement washers you can buy, and there are kits for repairing leaking toilets. Many do-it-yourselfers make these repairs on their own, but if you prefer to have a professional do the job, consult a qualified plumber.

How it helps: If the leak is from hot-water faucets, it makes your water heater work harder, costing you money and using more energy.

SUMMER STRATEGIES

Summer is the season when use of electricity is at its highest. Higher demand drives costs up. It's the best time to be energy-smart so you can trim usage and lower energy costs.

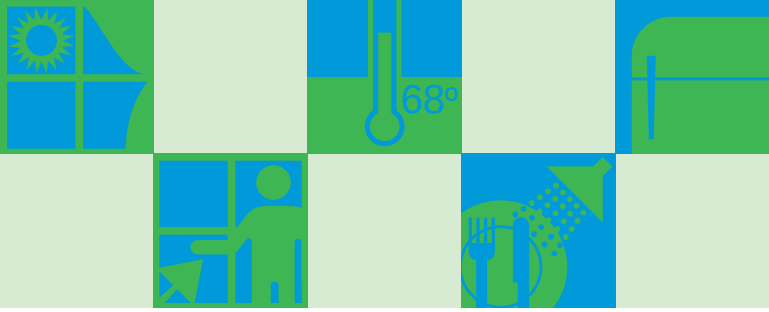
Air conditioning know-how

What to do: Save energy and save money by getting the best performance from your air conditioner.

How to do it:

• Turn off your air conditioner when there's no one home. If you want to return to a cool interior, buy a timer that can turn on the air conditioner half an hour before you get back. Timers are available at appliance stores, hardware stores, home centers, and elsewhere.

• Keep the air conditioner's filter clean. Some units have washable filters, others have replaceable filters. Either way, a clean filter helps the air conditioner work efficiently. Clogged filters make the air conditioner work much harder, and it doesn't cool as effectively. That wastes energy and money.



• If you're using only the room where your air conditioner is located, shut the doors to that room. It makes the room more comfortable, and it prevents cool air from escaping to unoccupied parts of the house.

• Adjust the air conditioner's temperature control to keep your interior no cooler than 78 degrees. It's an efficient setting that's also comfortable. Moving to a colder temperature consumes more energy and costs more money. For example, going to 75 degrees costs 18% more, and a 72-degree setting costs 39% more!

• If you're buying a new air conditioner, look for the Energy Star® label. It tells you the unit has been designed with energy savings in mind. Energy Star® air conditioners are much more efficient than ordinary units. They use less power so you spend less money.

• When buying a new air conditioner, choose one that's the right size for the space it will cool. The salesperson will help you determine which unit is best. Too big wastes energy by providing more cooling than you need. Too small wastes energy because the air conditioner is constantly working to keep up with cooling demand that exceeds its ability.

How it helps: In summer, your air conditioner uses more energy than any other appliance. By using it efficiently you can really help lower your demand for electricity and since cool air is expensive air, you lower your energy bill too.

Keep the sunshine out

What to do: On sunny days, keep daylight out

How to do it: Close the curtains or draw down the blinds. Add curtains or blinds to glass doors facing a sunny exposure. Apply reflective plastic film to the inside of windows and glass doors. It can screen out about 75% of the sun's rays. Just cut it to size, and it clings to the glass on its own. And, it's reusable.

How it helps: Full sunlight entering through windows and glass doors raises indoor temperature. This temperature rise can be considerable. By keeping sunlight out, you make your home cooler so air conditioners don't need to work as hard to make you comfortable. That lowers electrical usage and helps reduce costs.

Keep hot air out, cool air in

What to do: Keep windows shut, seal drafts around window frames and door frames, and if you own a home, have it well insulated

How to do it: For tips on sealing out drafts and insulating effectively, check the "Around The House" section of this booklet. Close windows during daylight hours to keep the heat out. Most air conditioners let you select a fresh-air setting. Choosing this keeps the air conditioner running efficiently while it draws some outside air to keep interiors fresh.

How it helps: Keeping hot air out and cool air in means your air conditioner won't have to work as hard to keep you comfortable. You'll use less electricity and save money.

Don't forget fans

What to do: Use fans whenever you can to help make your home more comfortable

How to do it:

• Use ceiling fans to keep air circulating once you've lowered the room temperature. You can turn off the air conditioner because the airflow helps keep the room cool. When the room warms up again, cool it down with air conditioning once more, then repeat the process. You may be able to reduce your air conditioner operating time by up to 40%.

• Use window fans on summer evenings and overnight when outdoor temperatures go down after sunset. You can draw in the cool night air to keep comfortable. Using a window fan this way takes much less energy than keeping the air conditioning on overnight.

How it helps: Fans use much less electricity than air conditioners. Using fans to help beat the heat will let you reduce your electrical demand and lower your energy costs.

STAY WARM IN WINTER

Keep out the cold

What to do: Keep windows shut, seal drafts around window frames and door frames, and if you own a home, have it well insulated

How to do it: For tips on sealing out drafts and insulating effectively, check the "Around The House" section of this booklet. Keep windows closed. If you have older single-pane windows, they may let in the cold even when they're closed. You can tape clear plastic barrier film over window frames. The barrier film traps air between itself and the window to insulate your home from the cold.

How it helps: Keeping cold air out and warm air in helps your heating system use less energy.

Setting for savings

What to do: Set the thermostat for economy, both day and night

How to do it: During the day, keep thermostats set at 68 degrees. Overnight turn it down to 60 degrees. These settings are comfortable and thrifty. However, some senior citizens and others with medical problems may need warmer temperatures for health reasons.

How it helps: These thermostat settings provide a good balance of comfort and efficiency. Each degree above these settings can mean a 3% increase in energy costs.

Let the sunshine in

What to do: On sunny days, let daylight into your interiors

How to do it: Open the curtains or raise the blinds. If you have glass doors facing a sunny exposure, do the same.

How it helps: Full sunlight entering through windows and glass doors raises indoor temperature. This temperature rise can be considerable. By letting sunlight in, you make your home warmer so your heating system doesn't need to work as hard to make you comfortable. That lowers energy usage and reduces costs.

Fans for winter comfort

What to do: Use ceiling fans to improve heating efficiency

How to do it: Ceiling fans aren't just for summer. Run ceiling fans at their slowest setting to make your interiors more comfortable in winter. As radiators heat your home, the warm air rises. Temperatures near the ceiling can be 10 to 15 degrees higher than at floor level. Ceiling fans running at a slow speed mix the warm air with the cooler, so you get even warming throughout the room.

How it helps: When you circulate warmed air, your heating system doesn't need to work as hard.

Keep clear – heating at work

What to do: Don't block heat sources

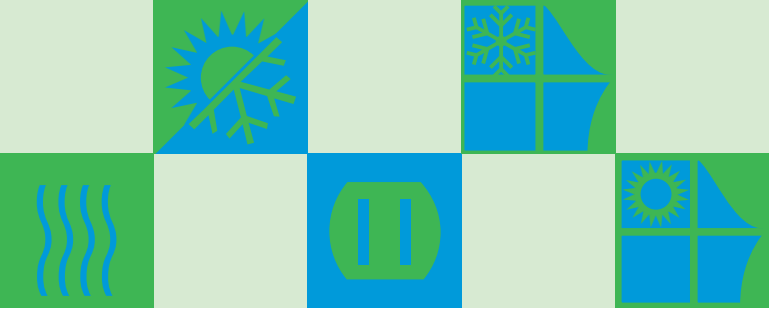
How to do it: Remove obstructions from around radiators, baseboard heaters, or hot-air vents. To work their best, these need clear space.

How it helps: Giving your heat sources the room they need to work properly makes your heating system more efficient.

Cold-weather common sense

There are some things that you should avoid when you're trying to stay warm and comfortable. Think twice before using portable electric space heaters. They use a lot of energy. Just one can add $60.00 or more to your electricity bill every month.

Never use the oven to heat your home. It's dangerous and can cause fires. It can also produce dangerous carbon monoxide gas fumes.

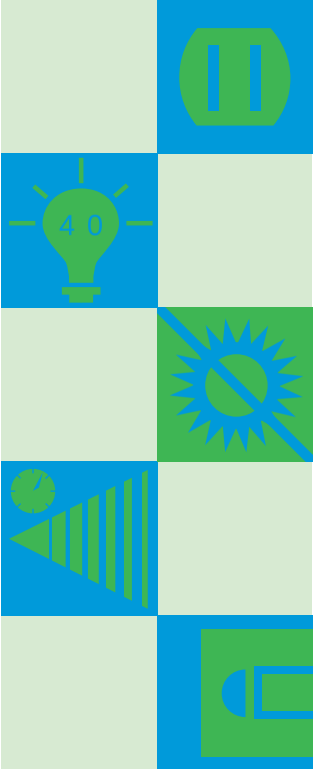


Living Energy-Smart

We've developed these energy-saving tips to help make your home more energy-efficient, more comfortable, and to save you money. But don't forget that the most important factor in energy efficiency is you. You have the ability to make significant reductions in your home energy usage without spending a lot of money or making drastic lifestyle changes. No technology can do as much good as your decision to be energy-conscious.

Con Edison
4 Irving Place
New York, NY 10003
1(800) 75-CONED
www.conEd.com

Printed on recycled paper
4/01 968-7856



conEdison

4 Irving Place
New York, NY 10003