

EVERYDAY TIPS FROM PG&E

Use these tips to save energy every day:

- Keep your refrigerator full. Try using jugs of water. Unplug and recycle your second refrigerator.
- Vacuum the coils in the back and bottom of your refrigerator and freezer to increase air flow.
- Operate your dishwasher with full loads, and dry dishes on the energy saver setting. If the manufacturer's instructions permit, open the door at the end of the last rinse cycle to air dry dishes.
- Cook on range-top burners when practical instead of in the oven.
- Switch to ENERGY STAR LEDs that use at least 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last up to 25 times longer.
- Use dimmer switches or timers on lights. Dimmer switches can also extend bulb life.
- Wrap your water heater with a water heater blanket, especially if it's in an unheated area of your home.
- Set your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees or 140 degrees if you have a dishwasher.
- Install energy-saving showerheads, faucets and flow restrictors.
- Microwave small amounts of food instead of using the oven to reduce your cooking energy use by up to 80 percent.
- Wash clothes in cold water and save up to \$30 a year on hot water heating with a gas water heater.
- Use the clothes dryer moisture sensor to turn off the dryer automatically. Operating the dryer an extra 15 minutes per load can cost up to \$34 annually. Clean the lint trap between loads, which can provide additional savings.
- Move your air conditioner (AC) to a north-facing or shaded window, if possible, because direct sunlight reduces efficiency. If you can't move your AC, consider adding a shade for protection.
- Check air vents and registers to verify that they are well sealed where they meet floors, walls and ceilings.
- Use the bathroom exhaust fan to remove heat and humidity after bathing. Verify that bathroom and kitchen fans are vented to the outside.
- Cut your shower time by in half to reduce water heating costs by 33 percent. Showers can account for up to two-thirds of your water heating costs. Install low-flow showerheads and save up to 16 percent on your water heating costs.
- Unplug electronics and chargers when not in use. Most electronics use energy even when switched off. Turn computers and printers off at the power strip.
- Shorten filter and automatic cleaning sweep times on pools to not exceed recommended turnover rate and run during off-peak hours. Use pool covers. Check with your pool contractor if you could benefit from a shorter cleaning time.
- Use outside awnings or plants to shade your home and windows.
- Seal air ducts using mastic sealant or metal. Insulate all easy-to-reach ducts. In many homes, about 20 percent of the ducted air is lost due to leaks, holes and poorly connected ducts.

PLEASE NOTE: Estimated annual savings is based on assuming an electricity rate of \$0.19/kilowatt hour (kWh), gas rate of \$1.19/therm, and water and sewer rate of \$11.92/1,000 gallons.

SUMMER TIPS FROM PG&E

- Run the dishwasher only when full.
- Wash full loads of laundry using cold water. Today's modern detergents work well in cold water and about 90 percent of the energy used by clothes washers goes to water heating.
- When possible, delay chores that produce heat such as dishwashing, laundering and cooking until cooler times of the day or night.
- Set your air conditioning thermostat higher than 78°F (health permitting) when you're at home and to 85°F when you're away.
- Use a ceiling fan while you're home and running the air conditioner. This will allow you to raise your thermostat setting about 4 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Allow cooler air from the morning or night before to flow into your home. As the temperature rises, close the windows and draw the shades to keep pre-cooled air inside.
- Check the filter on your heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. A dirty filter can cause your system to work harder to keep you cool, wasting energy.
- If possible, enjoy an afternoon out—at the pool, movies, park or local library—to reduce your air conditioning use at home.
- Learn how to reduce your energy usage and lower your costs, this summer and all-year round.
- Use outside awnings or plants to shade your home and windows.
- Move your AC to a north-facing or shaded window if possible to increase efficiency. If you can't move your AC, consider adding a shade for protection.
- Fill up your refrigerator to keep food colder. Clean the coils regularly and move it away from the wall. Keep the refrigerator's temperature between 38-42° and the freezer's between 0-5°.
- Turn off lights when not needed.
- Check air vents and registers to verify they are well-sealed where they meet floors, walls and ceilings.
- Use the bathroom fan to remove heat and humidity after bathing. Verify that bathroom and kitchen fans are vented to the outside and not to the attic.
- Unplug electronics and chargers when not in use. Most electronics use energy even when switched off. Turn computers and printers off at the power strip.
- Clean the clothes dryer's lint screen after every load. Run full loads and use the moisture-sensing setting.
- Add these tips to your list:
- Save energy and money by using pool covers.
- Schedule annual service for your AC to ensure its peak operation.
- Seal air ducts using mastic sealant or metal, and insulate all easy-to-reach ducts. In many homes, about 20 percent of ducted air is lost due to leaks, holes and poorly connected ducts.

WINTER TIPS

- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower when you're at home, health permitting. Each degree above 68 degrees uses 3 to 5 percent more energy.
- Set your thermostat to 56 degrees when you leave the house. Turning your thermostat down by 10 to 15 degrees for 8 hours a day can save you 5 to 15 percent a year on your heating bill.
- Clean your clothes dryer lint trap between loads. This small action can save you up to \$34 a year.
- Microwave small amounts of food instead of using the oven and reduce your cooking energy use by up to 80 percent.
- Cut shower time in half to reduce water heating costs by 33 percent. Showers can account for up to two-thirds of your water heating expenses.
- Wash clothes in cold water and save up to \$30 a year on hot water heating when using a gas water heater.
- Use the clothes dryer moisture sensor to turn off the dryer automatically. Running your dryer for an extra 15 minutes per load can cost up to \$34 a year. Clean the lint trap between loads, which can provide additional savings.

Use these tips to help your energy savings grow over time:

- Install low-flow showerheads and save up to 16 percent on your water heating costs.
- Replace your dishwasher with a booster heater model so you can lower the temperature setting on your water heater.
- Seal air leaks. Insulate your attic, walls and floors over crawl spaces and accessible basement rim joists. Save up to 10 percent on your energy costs.
- Wrap older water heaters with an insulating jacket to minimize excess heat loss. Leave the air intake vent uncovered when insulating a gas water heater. Save up to 10 percent on water heating costs.