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Save on Home Energy Costs

The world's energy needs have been changing, resulting in a greater demand worldwide. With rising energy costs, more and more homeowners are looking towards sustainable, energy efficient homes. But making your home energy efficient won't just save you money. It'll also make your home more comfortable for you and help the environment! Energy efficient homes reduce cold drafts, humidity problems, and other seasonal discomforts. They also produce less air pollution that leads to respiratory diseases, smog, acid rain, and global warming. Did you know that the average home causes twice as much carbon dioxide emissions as the average car?

Here are some tips to help you make your home more energy efficient.

Air Conditioning/Heating

- Regularly clean or replace the air filters in your home's cooling and heating systems. Units using dirty filters have to work harder and use more energy.
- Replace your cooling or heating systems for ones that have earned the Energy Star Label.
- Install a programmable thermostat to help you better control the temperature of your home.

Lighting

- Turn the lights off when you leave the room. Install extra switches in convenient places to make this easier for you.
- Use light bulbs and fixtures that have earned the Energy Star Label.
- Take advantage of the sun. Windows and skylights allow natural light to brighten your room during the day. (However too many windows will increase energy costs.)

Insulation

- Inspect your home to make sure it is properly insulated. This act alone can help you save up to 10% off your energy bill.
- Install windows that have earned the Energy Star Label. They reduce drafts, noise, and ultra-violet rays from entering your home.

Appliances

- Replace old inefficient appliances with new Energy Star appliances.
- Unplug appliances when they are not in use. Many appliances go into standby mode and continue to drain energy when they are turned “off.”

The government’s Energy Star website also offers more tips and ideas for making your home more energy efficient. You can visit their site at www.energystar.gov. And please [let us know](#) if there is any way we can help you remodel your home to further improve its energy efficiency.

Home Maintenance Reminder

Keep your Refrigerator Running Efficiently

Vacuum the coils on the back of your refrigerator about once a year. By keeping the coils clean, you allow your refrigerator to run more efficiently while keeping your food cool.



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