

Moneywise ~ Save Energy and Save Money

Save energy and save money. According to the United States Department of Energy, 46% of your utility bill goes for heating and cooling your home. As we prepare for colder weather, there are a few easy steps you can take to save money on your winter energy bills. To cut your energy use for heating and cooling set your thermostat as high as is comfortable in the summer and as low as is comfortable in the winter. You may also want to consider a programmable thermostat. A programmable thermostat allows you to automatically set your thermostat to turn up and down the heat or air when you are not home. By turning back the temperature during the day while you are at work, the Department of Energy estimates a 10% savings in your utility bills.

Proper maintenance is also key to keep your heating and cooling system running efficiently. Don't forget to clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month, you may want to check your filters more often if you have pets at home. Make sure air-registers are not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes. Finally, do not underestimate the value of natural sunlight, during cold weather, keep the window coverings on south facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to warm the house, but remember to close drapes and shades in the evening. For long-term savings consider energy-efficient products when you buy new heating and cooling equipment. Home appliances with the ENERGY STAR label meet the U.S. Department of Energy's efficiency guidelines.

If you are looking for additional tips to save energy and money at home, check out the [Energy Savers](#) webpage. Energy related educational materials may be found on [Moneywise](#).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy - <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/>

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