

A TIP FROM



Weatherization Tip #1

Fact: Appliances make up 20% of all household energy consumption.

By looking for the yellow and black Energy Star label you can save a lot of energy and money over the lifetime of that appliance. The Energy Star rating is given by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for being the most energy-efficient products in their class. On the label you will notice two prices. One is the purchase price; the other is the operating cost. The operating cost indicates approximately how much it will cost to operate this appliance during its lifespan.

Laundry

80 – 85% of the energy used during the clothes washing process is to heat the water. Switching the temperature from hot to warm can cut your energy consumption in half on that load. By purchasing an Energy Star model you will save 1/3 on your energy bills and it rings out more water, adding to the savings in the drying process too. Clean the lint filter in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation. Inspect your dryer vent for blockages, this conserves energy and prevents fires when build up does occur.

Dishwashers

The most energy is used to heat the water and for the drying cycle. Turn down your hot water heater to at least 120 to 125 degrees. Don't use the "rinse hold" cycle on your machine, this will save 3 – 7 gallons of hot water each time. Open your dishwasher before it gets to the drying cycle, this eliminates the amount of energy dispensed for this process.

Refrigerators

Refrigerators should be set between 37 – 40 degrees, freezers at 0 degrees. Unplugging your second refrigerator or freezer, if it is not needed, could save you \$5- \$20 per month. Refrigerators with the freezer on top are more efficient than those with the fridge on the side. By choosing an Energy Star refrigerator you can save at least \$35 per year.

Check to see if your refrigerator door is sealing properly by using a piece of paper or dollar bill. Place it half in and half out of the fridge door. If you can pull the paper or bill out easily, the latch needs readjusting or the seal may need replacing. Vacuum your refrigerator condenser once a year, this will help your fridge to run for shorter periods of time and use less energy. A refrigerator uses almost 5 times the electricity as the average TV.