



10 easy ways to save on your energy costs.

Making a few small changes can really add up. Not only will these tips help to lower your energy costs, you'll be doing your part to reduce your impact on the environment and conserve precious natural resources. Both your wallet and the planet will thank you!

1. Leaving the room? Remember to hit the lights.

A flick of the switch when you leave a room can save about \$15 for every 60W light bulb that would have otherwise burned for 8 hours a day. Save even more by replacing the bulb of your 5 most frequently used lights with an ENERGY STAR certified compact fluorescent light bulb (CFLs). They last 6-10 times longer, use 75% less energy and can save more than \$65 a year in energy costs.

2. Make your air conditioner a perfect fit.

If you have a window air conditioner, make sure it's a perfect fit so outdoor air doesn't leak in. During winter months, using an outdoor or indoor air conditioner cover can help prevent leaks if you can't safely remove the unit from the window.

3. Program savings into your thermostat.

If possible, install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your home's temperature settings when you're away or sleeping. When used properly, it can save up to \$150 a year in energy costs. You should also set the "hold" button at a constant energy-saving temperature when you're away or on vacation.

4. Unplug electronic energy-suckers.

Many electronic products draw electricity even when switched off! This is called "phantom power load." So unplug any battery chargers or power adapters when not in use. Make this easy by using a power bar as the central "turn off" point.

5. Shorter showers mean savings.

A 10-minute shower can use less water than a full bath. With a new 2.5 gallon-per-minute (low-flow) shower head, you'll save 5 gallons of water over a typical bath, and up to \$145 a year in energy costs.

Recommended Thermostat Settings for the Best Savings and Comfort

	Day	Night
Summer	25°C (77°F)	23°C (73°F)
Winter	20°C (68°F)	18°C (64°F)

6. Let your air vents breathe.

Make sure all air vents are clear of furniture so that air can circulate freely. This can help your heating or cooling system to work more efficiently.

7. Drapes aren't just for show.

In cooler weather, keep your drapes open during daylight hours to take advantage of the sun's warmth. In warmer weather, keep them closed to block out the sun's heat.

8. Let your dishwasher handle it.

Most dishwashers today can thoroughly clean dishes that have had food scraped, rather than rinsed off - the wash cycle and detergent take care of the rest. About 60L of water is used per load, so always wait for a full load or set the water level to match the size of the load.

9. Washing clothes in cold pays off.

About 90% of energy used by a washer is for heating water - only 10% goes to electricity used by the washer motor. Depending on your water heater, switching to cold water can save you \$30 to \$40 a year. If you can, wash in full loads. Doing this can save 3,400 gallons of water a year.

10. Don't let your dryer soak up savings.

Cleaning your dryer's lint trap before every load helps it work more efficiently and can help save up to \$34 a year. Also be sure not to over dry your clothes. Running a dryer for an extra 15 minutes per load can cost up to \$34 a year.

Want to keep an eye on your usage?

Login to the **MyEnercare.ca** online portal for your hourly, daily, and monthly consumption.

Sources for tips: torontohydro.com, energystar.gov

