

# Energy Conservation Checklist

## Heating and Cooling

- Have heating and cooling equipment serviced annually.
- Reduce thermostat setting in winter.  
(Each degree decrease saves about 3% in heating costs.)
- Raise thermostat setting in summer.  
(Each degree increase saves about 5% in cooling costs.)
- In winter, set temperature back to 55 degrees at night or when the house will be unoccupied for longer than 4 hours. (For heat pumps, follow manufacturers recommendations.)
- Replace filters monthly.
- Close off rooms or other sections of the home that do not require heating or cooling.
- Use plastic sheeting to insulate windows during winter if necessary.
- Use a fireplace efficiently. Install glass screen or use tube-type circulating grate.

## Water Heating

- Lower temperature on water heater. Set to 120 degrees. (140 if dishwasher installed.)
- Install a water heater insulation blanket.
- Reduce hot water usage. (Showers instead of baths, cold water clothes washing when applicable.)
- Install low-flow washers or flow restrictors in faucets or shower.
- Repair leaking faucets promptly.

## Air Infiltration

- Install weather-stripping on doors and windows.
- Caulk around doors, windows, and all openings on exterior of house.
- Close fireplace dampers when not in use and plug opening in summer. (Don't forget to remove.)
- Insulate hatch cover leading to attic with batting material.
- Seal leaks in pipes and ducts.
- Install foam switchplate and socket gaskets behind switchplates and plug covers.

## Shading

- Use exterior blinds, sun screens, awnings or window film. (Exterior shading is more effective than interior shading.)
- Shade air conditioner condenser units.
- Use interior shades, drapes or shutters. (Open shades on sunny winter days, close shades on hot summer days.)
- Use deciduous plants and trees for shading the residence.

## Appliances

- Select energy efficient appliances.
- Remove operating second refrigerators and freezers.
- Let dishes air dry or use energy saving settings.
- Use cold water in clothes washer and wash full loads.
- Hang clothes outdoor instead of using dryer.
- Clean coils of refrigerator and freezer. (Also, a full unit runs more efficiently than an empty one.)
- Turn down waterbed heaters, use foam pads around frame, and deep cover with blankets.
- Use household appliances during off-peak hours.

## Lighting

- Reduce wattage of incandescent bulbs or replace them with fluorescent lighting.
- Connect light to dimmers or timers.
- For outdoor security light, use low energy use lamps and dusk to dawn switches.

## Swimming Pools and Spas

- Reduce hours for filtering and sweeping. (Check with your pool care professional for minimum required.)
- Use timers to filter and sweep during off peak hours.
- Use pool covers.
- Keep the equipment cleaned and lubricated.