

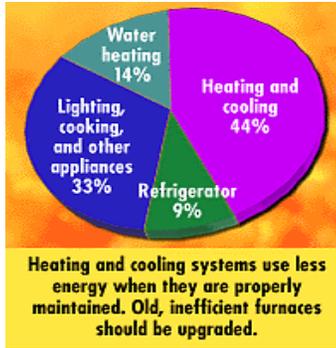
ENERGIZE MONTANA!

*Tips and graphs provided by U.S. Department of Energy and Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Look for more ways to conserve at www.energizemontana.com



Properly maintain heating and cooling systems

Typically, 44% of your utility bill goes for heating and cooling. No matter what kind of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system you have in your house, you can save money and increase comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment.



Proper maintenance can also reduce emissions. Heating and cooling systems in the United States together emit over a half billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year, adding to global warming. They also generate about 24% of the nation's sulfur dioxide and 12% of the nitrogen oxides, the chief ingredients in acid rain.



Use lighting options that save energy.

Simply turning off lights when you leave a room can decrease overall energy usage. Lighting is more efficient when it is applied directly to a task rather than an entire room. Homeowners and businesses that replace lights with longer lasting Compact Fluorescent Lights cut their lighting costs in half. Personal energy costs will decrease when lights turn off automatically when not needed by utilizing lighting controls such as photo sensors, occupancy sensors, and dimmers.



Properly insulate and maintain duct systems.

Ducts that leak heated air into unheated spaces can add hundreds of dollars a year to your heating and cooling bills. Check your ducts for air leaks. First look for sections that should be joined but have separated, then look for obvious holes. Also, remember that insulating ducts in the basement will make the basement colder. If both the ducts and the basement walls are uninsulated, consider insulating both.



Adjust thermostats for when you're at home and awake, lower them when you're asleep or away.

This strategy is effective and inexpensive if you are willing to wake up in a chilly house. In the summer, you can do the same with central air conditioning by keeping your house warmer than normal when you are away, and lowering the thermostat when you are at home. Installing a programmable thermostat makes the task easier, and qualifies for a state tax credit.



Maintain hot water heater and monitor hot water usage.

Water heating is the third largest energy expense in your home. It typically accounts for about 14% of your utility bill. There are three ways to cut your water heating bills: use less hot water, turn down the thermostat on your water heater, and insulate your water heater.



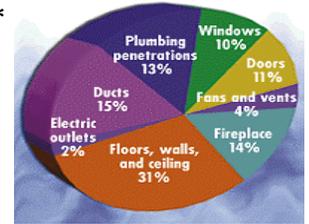
Seal cracks and properly insulate

Seal around windows, doors, electrical outlets, and any other places that can be a source for an air leak.

Outside, use a high quality caulk to seal around all windows and doors where the frames meet the exterior.

Inside your home, use weather stripping to seal around the moving parts of windows and doors, and install electrical outlet gaskets.

Then, add insulation in the attic and basement to prevent heat from escaping your home.



How Does the Air Escape?

Air infiltrates in and out of your home through every hole, nook, and cranny. About one third of this air infiltrates through openings in your ceilings, walls, and floors.



Energy Star Appliances



Appliances account for a large portion of your monthly utility bill. Refrigerators, clothes washers and dryers consume the most energy. There are ways to reduce the energy costs associated with using necessary appliances.

Look for *ENERGY STAR*-labeled appliances when shopping for a major appliance. These appliances are the most energy-efficient. Read the yellow Energy Guide label on new appliances so you can compare costs.



GOVERNOR JUDY MARTZ'S STATEWIDE INITIATIVE TO CONSERVE AND PRODUCE ENERGY

