



SIREN Energy-Saving Tip Sheet

Things you can do right now (the 5 minute energy-saving drill).

1. **Vacuum the coils of your refrigerator.** This has been proven to reduce energy consumption by 20% or more. Mark your calendar to do this every 6 months.
2. **Lower the temperature on your water heater.** Most water heaters are set much hotter than necessary, causing us to mix cold water in with the hot water just to make it bearable.
3. **If you don't use the freezer portion of your refrigerator, consider turning it off.** A lot of energy is wasted just to maintain some stale ice cubes.
4. **If you can't turn off your freezer, but it is mostly empty, consider filling it with water jugs.** The frozen jugs of water will take up space and reduce the volume of air that needs to be cooled by the freezer.
5. **Wash your clothes in cold water with High Efficiency detergent.** They will still get just as clean, and you won't have to use all of that hot water.
6. **Turn off lights when you're not in the room.** You might even enjoy a romantic candle lit dinner every once in awhile.
7. **Use a power strip to completely turn off electronic equipment when it's not in use.** Consider buying a "smart" power strip that will do this automatically.

Things that you can do in a weekend.

1. **Change your light bulbs with the more efficient fluorescent or LED bulbs.** Start with the bulbs you use most. The quality of light has improved radically in the last few years, so if you gave up on CFLs a while back, try again.
2. **Install a timer for your hot water heater.**
3. **Install a programmable thermostat.** Set the program to make the house comfortable when you're home and awake, while conserving energy when you're asleep or away from home.
4. **Buy a drying rack and let your clothes air dry.**
5. **Replace shower heads with newer water-saving models.** This will save hot water, which will save energy.
6. **Install a solar gable fan or attic fan.** These will keep your home cooler in the summer and help prevent ice dams in the winter.

Air infiltration makes your home cold in the winter and hot in the summer, but the following tips can really help increase your comfort and lower heating and cooling bills.

7. **Caulk any gaps around the exterior of your house.**
8. **Caulk gaps in your attic.**
9. **Replace weather stripping around windows.**

Ongoing things that will help save even more energy.

1. **Buy the most efficient appliances when it's time to buy new ones.**
2. **Pay attention to your daily energy consumption.** See what behaviors you might change to reduce your consumption.