



It's summer: Use less hot water

Use less hot water this summer and you could see a drop in both your water and energy bills.

The less hot water you use, the less you will have to pay to heat it.

The fact is that water heating accounts for about 18% of all the energy your family uses at home.

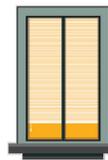
Here is how to cut that energy use:

- Lower the temperature of your water heating to the warm setting, which is 120 degrees. The U.S. Department of Energy says that temperature not only can lower energy bills, it can prevent the water from scalding you.
- Run your dishwasher only when it's full. Avoid washing dishes by hand when possible; that actually uses more water and energy.
- Choose the "cold water" setting on your clothes washer. Your laundry will still get clean.
- Fix leaky faucets. One drip of hot water per second from a leaky water faucet or showerhead wastes 1,661 gallons of water a year, according to the Energy Department. And it can cost you up to \$35 a year.
- Switch to low-flow faucets and showerheads. An Energy Department tip: Put a one-gallon bucket under your showerhead. Turn on the shower as you normally would in the morning, and set a timer. If it takes less than 20 seconds to fill that bucket to the one-gallon mark, it's time to replace your showerhead with a water-saving model.



Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



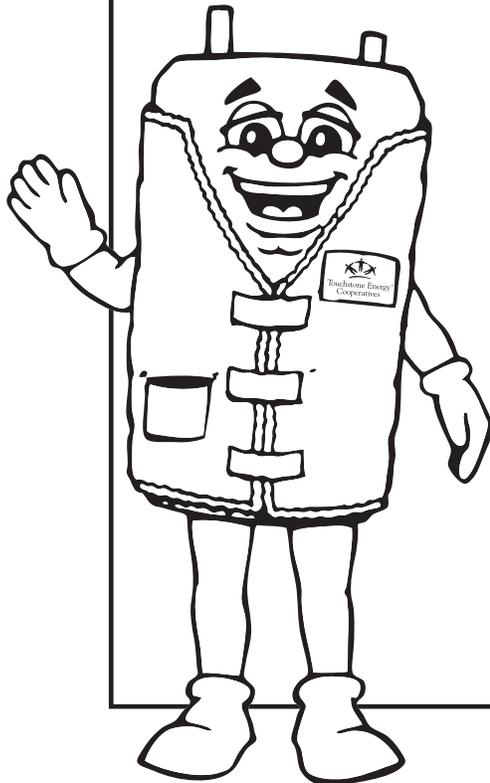
Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.

Energy is...

the ability to do work or perform tasks - like walking the dog or picking up a pencil. This type of energy is fueled by the food we eat.



We also use energy in our homes and schools to power the lights and heating - cooling systems. This type of energy is fueled by electricity.

