

November 2013

Energy Tips

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 If you are the dishwasher in your home, take steps to save water and energy on water heating when cleaning dishes. If you have a double-basin sink, fill one side with soapy water for scrubbing and the other with warm water for rinsing to avoid running the faucet more than necessary.	2
3	4 Save energy when you have a snack attack by deciding what to eat before opening the refrigerator door. When the door is open, the appliance is wasting energy.	5 Cough and sniffle season is upon us! One way to avoid sickness is to wash your hands often. To save water and energy, turn off the faucet as you lather up the soap.	6 Try this today! Make tonight's dinner in your slow cooker. This small appliance saves energy, and you won't have a ton of pots and pans to wash. What is your favorite meal to make in the slow cooker?	7 Did you know? Gurgling or banging sounds coming from hot-water radiators could be a sign that air is trapped in the pipes. Have a professional bleed the pipes at least once or twice every season to improve efficiency.	8 A space heater is a great tool for warming up a room without cranking up the temperature throughout the house. Before turning on a portable heater, read through these safety tips from Underwriters Laboratories: http://www.ul.com/global/enr/pages/corporate/newsroom/storyideas/homeheating/spaceheater/	9
10	11 Pre-rinsing dishes before loading them in the washer is a waste of water. If you have a newer dishwasher, save water and energy on water heating by skipping this step.	12 Already planning a shopping strategy for Black Friday? Try to snag some great deals on ENERGY STAR appliances. You'll save money on your purchase and on energy. It's a win-win! What are you hoping to score on Black Friday?	13 Did you know? Dirty streaks on your ceiling or carpet could point to air leaks around your house. Search for these leaks and seal them up to save energy this heating season.	14 Try this today! Place foam inserts behind outlet and light switch covers. These inexpensive, easy-to-install inserts will help block cold air seeping into your home.	15 Are you on track to take advantage of 2013 tax credits for energy-efficient improvements? Click the link below for a list of projects that qualify for tax credits this year. http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/appliance-upgrades-consider-next-tax-season	16

17	<p>18</p> <p>Did you know? If your home was built before 1980, you may need to add insulation. Only 20 percent of homes built before 1980 are considered well-insulated, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Just because summer is over, that doesn't mean you have to stop line-drying clothes. Hang damp clothing in your laundry room from a retractable clothesline or drying rack to save energy.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Try this today! Clean or replace your furnace filter to improve the system's efficiency. ENERGY STAR recommends doing this about once a month in the winter, since your furnace is probably working overtime to keep your home comfortable.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>As you plan your Thanksgiving meal, consider a more energy-efficient method of cooking your turkey, such as grilling. How are you preparing your bird this year?</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Have you ever visited the Residential Energy Services Network's library? It's full of articles that can help you save energy, and it's just a click away! http://www.resnet.us/library/</p>	23
24	<p>25</p> <p>Did you know? The U.S. Department of Energy recommends draining about one quart of water from your water heater tank every three months. This will remove sediment buildup and help improve the efficiency of the appliance.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>ENERGY STAR is asking Americans to replace their inefficient lightbulbs with 20 million ENERGY STAR LEDs by Earth Day. Check out the progress: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=lighting_pr_lighting_landing</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Cook your holiday casseroles in a glass or ceramic pan rather than metal. When you use these materials, you can lower the temperature of your oven around 25 degrees without increasing cooking time. How do you save energy in the kitchen?</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Happy Thanksgiving!</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Try this today! Have leftovers for dinner tonight. Heat your meal in the microwave. This small appliance is faster and more energy efficient than using the oven or stove.</p>	30