

A RENTERS GUIDE TO SAVING ENERGY: MANAGE YOUR ENERGY USE AND SAVE MONEY!



If you rent an apartment, townhouse or house, there are lots of low- or no-cost actions you can incorporate at home to better manage your energy use. **Energy Upgrade California®** in partnership with the **California Apartment Association** has developed tips to be more energy efficient, help you save money, and make your home more comfortable.





Tips for Renters to Save Energy and Money

1. Lighting is one of the easiest places to start saving energy.

Switch to ENERGY STAR® certified LED bulbs on your most used light fixtures.

- LED light bulbs use up to 85% less energy than 40W incandescent bulbs and last about 25 times longer. Total lifetime energy savings can add up to \$94 per light bulb.
- Remember to always turn off your lights when you leave a room—simply turning off lights when no one is around can lead to impressive cost savings.

2. Use advanced power strips.

Consumer electronics can consume a significant amount of energy even when switched off—this is called vampire energy. A power strip makes it easy to turn everything off with just one click. Advanced power strip models offer options like timers, remote controls, or the ability to set a “master device” to shut down everything else when it’s turned off.

- Vampire energy is the energy that electronics consume even when they are turned off and accounts for 5% of a household’s annual electricity use.

3. Saving water also helps save energy.

Using less water in the shower will reduce demand on water heaters, and save energy and money. Showering accounts for almost 17% of water use in homes, and an average American family uses about 40 gallons of water per day in the shower.

- For maximum water efficiency, install a WaterSense® labeled low-flow showerhead.
- A 10-minute shower can use less water than a full bath.
- Fill the dishwasher all the way. When you fill the dishwasher fully before running it, you use less water and energy per dish.
- Plug the sink when washing dishes by hand to limit the amount of water that is wasted.
- Turn off water when brushing your teeth.

4. Laundry savings.

Unlike dishwashers, washing machines don’t require a minimum temperature for the best cleaning. Use cold water for full loads of laundry.

- Cold water gets your clothes just as clean as hot water and uses less energy. Hot water heating accounts for about 90% of the energy your machine uses to wash clothes—only 10% goes to electricity used by the washer motor.

5. Use your curtains or blinds to keep warm or cool.

Keeping intense sunlight out can keep your home naturally cooler and reduce the AC bill. Conversely, letting in warm sunlight when it’s chilly can lower your heating bill and reduce the need for lighting.

6. Make sure all air vents are clear of furniture

so that air can circulate freely.

- Replace air filters once a month during heavy use times.

7. Look for the ENERGY STAR® logo

when in the market for new electronics or appliances.

- Opt for TVs and other electronics that have earned the ENERGY STAR designation which are at least 40% more energy efficient than standard models.

8. Use fans for hotter days.

Fans are a great alternative to air conditioning that can save you energy and money. A fan can make a room feel 3-7 degrees cooler instantly. A fan cools as soon as you turn it on, while the AC can take longer to cool off the room. Look for ENERGY STAR qualified ceiling fans.

Energy Upgrade California is your source for information, tools and programs to efficiently manage energy and make your home more comfortable. Visit EnergyUpgradeCA.org for additional savings tips, programs and rebates available.

There are many programs available through your local utilities that provide no-cost energy efficiency solutions and assistance paying your utility bill to income-qualified customers. To determine household eligibility and apply with your local utility, visit www.EnergyUpgradeCA.org.

Simple steps can lead to big results. Helping California stay golden for generations is something we can all be part of.

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Energy Upgrade California is a state initiative to educate residents and small business consumers about energy management. The initiative helps Californians take action to save energy and conserve natural resources, reduce demand on the electricity grid, and make informed energy management choices at home and at work. It is supported by an alliance of the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Energy Commission, utilities, regional energy networks, local governments, businesses, and nonprofits to help communities meet state and local energy and climate action goals. Funding comes from investor-owned utility customers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. © 2015 California Public Utilities Commission and the California Energy Commission. Trademarks are property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.