



CONSUMER AFFAIRS TIP SHEET

Energy Saving Tips for Renters

While you may already be turning off lights in unoccupied rooms and adjusting your thermostat to reduce energy bills, here are more tips that help protect the environment, reduce energy consumption and can make a big impact with little out-of-pocket costs.

- **Switch to Energy-Efficient Bulbs:** Replace incandescent bulbs with LEDs, which use up to 75% less energy and last 25 times longer. LEDs do not contain mercury and can be disposed of in regular trash or taken to the I-66 Transfer Station or the I-95 Complex for recycling.
- **Unplug Unused Electronics:** Disconnect electronics and small appliances or turn them off using a conventional or smart power strip when not in use.
- **Minimize Refrigerator Use:** Keep refrigerator door openings brief and infrequent to prevent cool air from escaping. Turn off your refrigerator's automatic icemaker to save 15% to 20% on your refrigerator's energy use.
- **Use Natural Light:** Open curtains during mild weather to reduce reliance on artificial lighting.
- **Adjust Window Coverings:** Close curtains or blinds to retain heat in winter and block heat in summer.
- **Discuss Appliance Upgrades:** Talk to your landlord about energy-efficient appliances or upgrades like a programmable thermostat. Obtain written permission before making changes.
- **Install Lighting Controls:** Use dimmers or motion sensors to manage lighting efficiently. Ensure landlord approval for any fixture alterations.
- **Wash Full Loads:** Only run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads. Wash clothes in cold or warm water instead of hot water. Consider air drying dishes and clothing when possible.
- **Use Ceiling and Floor Fans:** Enhance cooling in summer and distribute warm air in winter with ceiling and floor fans, allowing for thermostat adjustments.
- **Adjust Thermostat Settings:** Turn your thermostat back 7-10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours a day to save around 10% on heating and cooling bills.

