

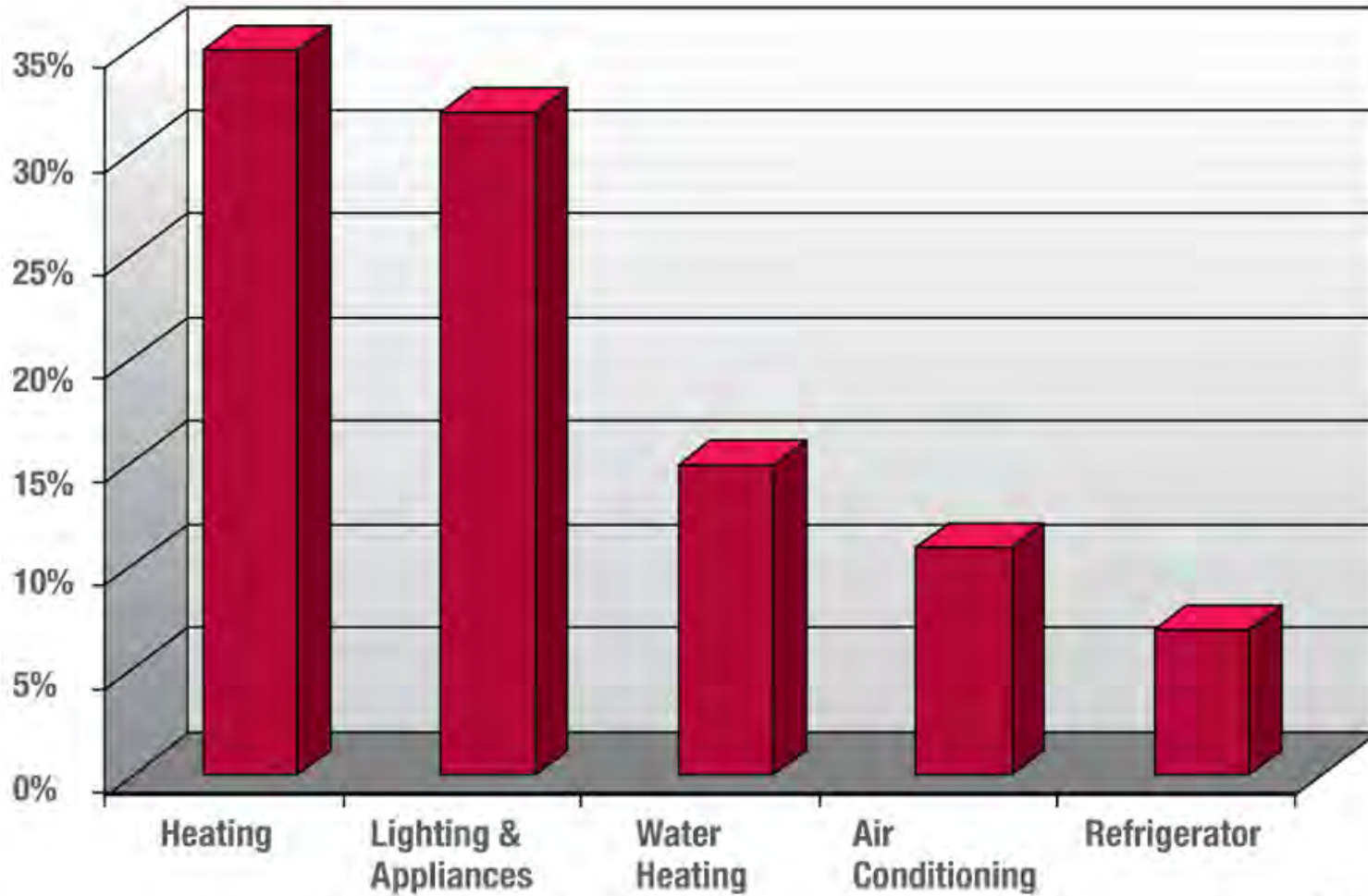


www.advancedenergy.org

TEN SIMPLE TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY AND MONEY IN HOMES



North Carolina Home Energy Use





Replace your most frequently used lights

Identify those light fixtures that run most frequently and look for energy efficient replacements. Your local hardware stores may carry compact fluorescents (CFLs) and high efficiency T8 fluorescents that will meet your needs just as well with much lower energy use. Remember to turn off lights whenever possible. For example, add motion sensors on outdoor security lights. The table below illustrates the savings in replacing incandescent bulbs with CFLs. The projected savings are for a single bulb that is on six hours per day.

| | Incandescent Lamp Watts | CFL Watts | Annual Savings |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Save Money on Lights! | 40 | 9-13 | \$6.35 / yr |
| | 60 | 13-15 | \$10.07 / yr |
| | 75 | 18-25 | \$12.81 / yr |
| | 100 | 23-30 | \$16.10 / yr |
| | 150 | 30-52 | \$23.87 / yr |





Install a low-flow shower head

Showers comprise more than 25% of all water use and more than 50% of hot water use. Before 1992, showerheads used as much as 5.5 gallons per minute (gpm). Now they are required to use less than 2.5 gpm, saving more than half the water and cost. The cost of installing a low-flow shower head is minimal, and homeowners can usually do it themselves. Be careful not to twist off the pipe coming out of the wall or you will probably need to call a plumber, which can be expensive.

Buy ENERGY STAR[®] appliances and electronics

When you buy new appliances and electronics, you are locking yourself in for as long as you own that equipment. Some appliances and electronics use less than half as much energy to do the same job. Do your research, and make a wise choice.

Visit www.energystar.gov for more information.





Set your computer to go into standby mode

A typical desktop computer and screen use 100 to 150 watts depending on age and features. The surprise is that computers in screen saver mode still use 100 to 150 watts. Screen saver mode does not save energy. Computers in standby mode use only about three watts of energy, and they can be back in action in less than 10 seconds. If you leave your computer on round the clock, it may cost about \$90 per year in energy. How many of those hours is it actually being used?





Unplug “sleeping” appliances and chargers

Some studies have shown significant power consumption by appliances that appear to be off. It is good practice to unplug printers, fax machines, video equipment, battery chargers, laptop chargers, chargers for cell phones, PDAs, Blackberries, etc. In particular, check anything that has a little transformer on the cord or plug. If that transformer is a little warm even when it is not charging anything, it is consuming power all the time. Do you need it plugged in?





Reset your thermostat

You save about 3% for each degree increased or decreased – higher in the summer, lower in the winter. Setting the heat at 68° and the cooling at 78° may be the quickest and easiest thing you can do to significantly reduce your energy cost. Make sure your fan is set to the Auto mode, not the On mode. Remember to change the settings at night or while you are away to save even more energy. For people who are away from home during set periods of time throughout the week, a programmable thermostat can be an excellent investment. If you use it wisely, changing the battery and programming it annually, a programmable thermostat can pay for itself in one heating or cooling season.



Change your water heater temperature setting

Do you really need 140° or 150° water in your water heater? 120° is enough to scald you. Reduce the temperature little by little until you find it is getting too cool. Then increase it just a little. You will reduce your tank and piping losses considerably.

Turn off unneeded appliances

Do you really need that second refrigerator or freezer?





Check for and repair leaky ductwork

It is not unusual for 20% of all heating and cooling energy to be lost to leaky ductwork. If your ducts are not sealed with mastic, you probably have fairly leaky ducts. Duct tape does not work well. Mastic is a gooey paste that you should see slathered on to all of the ductwork joints in your system. If you check the ductwork directly above and below your furnace or heat pump blower, you can see if mastic is used. If not, you should have someone apply it properly. The cost of mastic is minimal, and homeowners can apply it if they are willing to work in the attic and crawlspace. Otherwise, get a contractor to seal the ducts for you. It pays!





Other items to consider

- Change your air filters at least twice a year.
- Check weather-strips around doors. If you feel draft when the door is closed adjust your threshold and seal it.
- Add pipe insulation for exposed hot water pipes near water heaters.
- Leave blinds on south facing windows open in the winter.
- Close blinds on south and west facing windows in the summer.
- Set your dishwasher on air dry rather than heated dry.
- Close fireplace dampers when the fireplace is not being used.
- Use the Automatic setting on your dryer to prevent over drying.
- Use cold settings on your washing machine, particularly for color loads.



Notice... items that are NOT on our list...

New windows

Generally a very long payback on energy costs alone. If you must replace aging windows, make sure they are ENERGY STAR certified.

Adding insulation

Only a good idea if you have less than 10" in the attic

Miracle heaters

Just say no.





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