



## Eight Inexpensive Ways to Maximize Your Efficiency

As the year kicks into high gear and days get busy, we're all looking to do more with less. Check out these eight cost-effective ways to be more efficient this year in and around your home.

**1. Adjust the thermostat while you're out.**

Adjusting the thermostat when you're away from home can help save energy without sacrificing comfort. If you don't own a programmable thermostat, you can find inexpensive options at any hardware store or online, so you can set the schedule to adjust automatically.

**2. Change filters on air-conditioning and heating units.**

Cleaning and replacing filters can [lower your energy consumption](#) by five to 15 percent and keep your appliances running at peak efficiency. Plus, it also helps reduce dust and allergens in your home.

**3. Wash clothes in cold water.**

Water heating accounts for about [18 percent of your home's energy use](#). Using cold water helps save on water heating costs and energy consumption, while also prolonging the life of your load. You can also upgrade your water heater to an efficient model.

**4. Clean your dryer's lint trap and vent.**

Lint buildup in your clothes dryer can increase drying time and create a fire hazard. After each load of laundry, use the dryer sheet to clean the lint trap. To clean the filter, use the narrow wand of your vacuum or a duster to remove build up. Frequently wiping down the inside of your dryer also helps remove remaining lint inside your appliance.

**5. Control energy "vampires."**

Laptops and cell phone chargers draw energy even when they aren't connected to electronics. Save energy by unplugging them, and turn off lights, TVs and computers when they aren't in use.

**6. Install low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators.**

Installing [WaterSense accessories](#) in your home can save the average family 700 gallons of water per year – enough water to take 40 showers.

**7. Apply weatherstripping.**

Sealing gaps and cracks around your doors and windows can [save more than 20 percent](#) on heating and cooling costs.

**8. Upgrade to energy efficient natural gas appliances.**

Newer appliances are highly efficient, so you'll save energy and money. Plus, you could be eligible for rebates from Texas Gas Service. For more information, visit [TexasGasService.com/Rebates](https://www.texasgasservice.com/Rebates).