

Increasing Your Home's Energy Efficiency

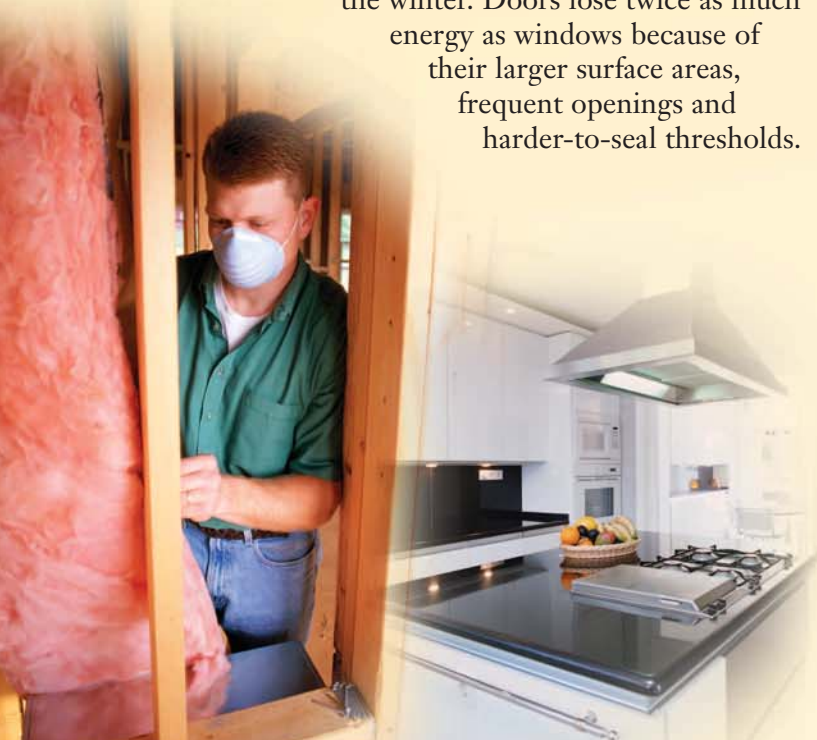
REDUCE YOUR ENERGY BILLS THIS SUMMER!

High energy bills got you down? With the heat of the summer months upon us, now is the time to make energy-efficient adjustments to keep your bills from soaring.

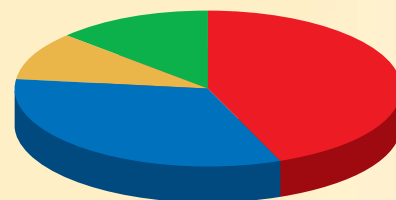
By using a few inexpensive techniques you can reduce your energy consumption by up to 50 percent and, at the same time, help reduce air pollution.





One of the easiest ways to lower bills is to insulate your home, starting with the attic or crawl space. In the summer, when the hot sun beats down on your roof, the insulation will help keep your house cool by keeping out the heat. Insulation plays double-duty during the winter months by trapping the heat that rises.

Weather-stripping windows and doors with spring metal, vinyl, felt or self-adhesive foam will help keep warm air from leaking into your home during the summer and out of your home during the winter. Doors lose twice as much energy as windows because of their larger surface areas, frequent openings and harder-to-seal thresholds.



Where Do Your Energy Dollars Go?
(on average)



	Heating and Cooling	44%
	Lighting, Cooking and Other Appliances	33%
	Refrigerator	10%
	Heating Water	13%

One of a homeowner's most cost-effective moves is to install a programmable thermostat, which typically retail for about \$50. Such thermostats can be set to increase and reduce temperature depending on when you'll be home, saving as much as 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills.

A few other tips:

- Regularly pull out your refrigerator and vacuum the coils
- Buy appliances that are energy-efficient (check for the Department of Energy's Energy Star® label)
- Check that your fireplace damper is closed when not in use

Finally, be judicious in your use of air-conditioning. By setting your thermostat as high as possible, you'll shave plenty off your energy bills.