

Business & Repair Office 7:00 am—3:30 pm—Business Number 829-8726 —Repair Number 829-2193— March 2022 Vol 34 3/12

Energy Conservation

Energy Usage

Electricity use is on the rise in most homes. One reason we're using more electricity is because we're using more equipment and gadgets. Along with our traditional home appliances we have computer systems, entertainment centers, video games, battery chargers for our cell phones and other devices, and the list continues to grow!

Vampire Power

Vampire Power is a phenomenon most of us passively permit. It is a plague that consumes electricity while draining your wallet.. A vampire load is the power that is sucked from a piece of electronic equipment when it is seemingly turned off but still in standby mode, or not in use. A growing number of household electrical devices are designed to draw power 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Even when they are turned "off" these devices continue to use electricity to operate features such as clocks, timers, and touch pads, or to receive signals from remote controls.

Saving Energy

The following are some low-cost, easy-to-do energy conservation steps!

In the Kitchen

- Cover liquids and wrap your foods before storing them in the refrigerator. Moisture released from uncovered foods and liquids make the compressor work harder.
- Check your refrigerator and freezer door gaskets by placing a dollar bill between them and closing the door. If the bill pulls out easily, it suggests either a gasket or door adjustment problem.
- Make sure the temperature in your refrigerator is set correctly at 38°F.
- Don't open your refrigerator door too often! Every time the door is opened, up to 30% of the cooled air can escape.
- Vacuum your refrigerator condenser coils every six months.
- Use microwaves, toaster ovens, and slow cookers. These use 75% less energy than an electric oven.
- No peeking in your oven to check on your food; you can lose 25–50° or up to 30% of the heat.



In the Living Areas

- Summer sunlight can heat up your home quickly. Close the shades on the south and west side of your home during daylight hours.
- Use a fan in conjunction with air conditioners to avoid having to set the air conditioner too low. Turn off the fans when you leave the room as fans cool people through wind-chill but do not cool the room.
- Weatherstrip or caulk around loose-fitting exterior door jambs and windows.
- Unplug rarely used appliances such as a TV located in the spare bedroom
- Reduce the number of lights you are using. Turn off unneeded lights.



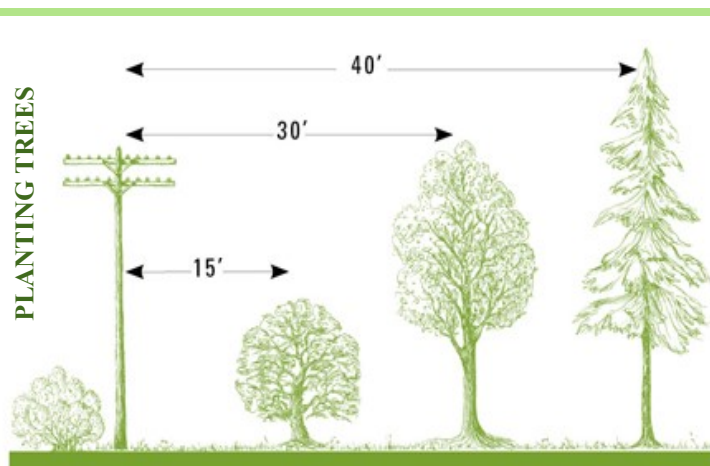
In the Laundry Room

- Wash only full loads of laundry, or set the machine for the correct sized load.
- When possible, wash clothes in cold water.
- When purchasing a new clothes washer, buy an Energy Star® high-efficiency model. They use 45% less water which reduces water heating costs. They also spin the clothes better for shortened drying times.
- Lower the temperature of your water heater to 120°F.



Outdoors

- Use LED holiday lights and decorations. They are 75% more efficient and last up to 25 times longer.
- For outdoor decorations, use a timer or look for timers that include a light sensor for easier operation.
- Keep the outdoor part of your central A/C unit clean to help it operate more efficiently. Seeds, grass clippings, dust, and brush growing too close to your condenser can clog it and make it work harder.
- Plant a tree! If you plant a tree today on the west side of your home, in five years your energy bills should be 3% less. In 15 years the savings will be nearly 12%.



Please do NOT plant trees, shrubs, etc. within 12 feet of electrical transformers and/or junction boxes.

Obstructions may be damaged or removed during service restoration or maintenance and will not be replaced.

We need room to work safely on these devices.