

# Energy Saving Tips: A Focus on Winter



County of Albemarle, VA



## COLD MONTHS

- Turn down your thermostat to 68°F or lower during the day, because for every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you'll save up to 5% on heating costs.
- Replace or clean furnace filters once a month. You can save up to 5% on your energy bill.
- Reduce hot water temperature. Set your water heater to the "normal" setting or 120-degrees Fahrenheit, unless the owner's manual for your dishwasher requires a higher setting. Savings are 7-11% of water heating costs.
- Keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home. Keep closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.
- Reverse the spin of the fan (most fans have a small switch) and set it on the slowest speed to help send warm air down to the living area.
- Keep warm indoors by wearing layers of lightweight clothing.
- Turn down the heater when using the fireplace.



- Close the damper when not using the fireplace.
- Visit this EPA website on more efficient, cleaner-burning fireplaces and woodstoves: <http://www.epa.gov/woodstoves/fireplaces.html>
- Don't block your radiators or heating vents with furniture or draperies. Keep your radiators, registers and baseboard heaters dirt and dust-free.

## YEAR-ROUND



- Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.
- Change incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and save up to \$12 per year for each light bulb changed.
- Unplug electronics such as cell phone chargers when not in use.
- Do only full loads when using your dishwasher and clothes washer. Use the cold water setting on your clothes washer when you can. Using cold water reduces your washer's energy use by 75%.
- When purchasing new appliances, look for the ENERGY STAR label for energy-efficient washing machines, dishwashers, computers, etc.
- Weather strip windows and doors to prevent leaks from outside air
- Take showers instead of baths to conserve water