SAVINGS IN THE HOUSE

QUICK TIPS TO CUT YOUR UTILITY BILL

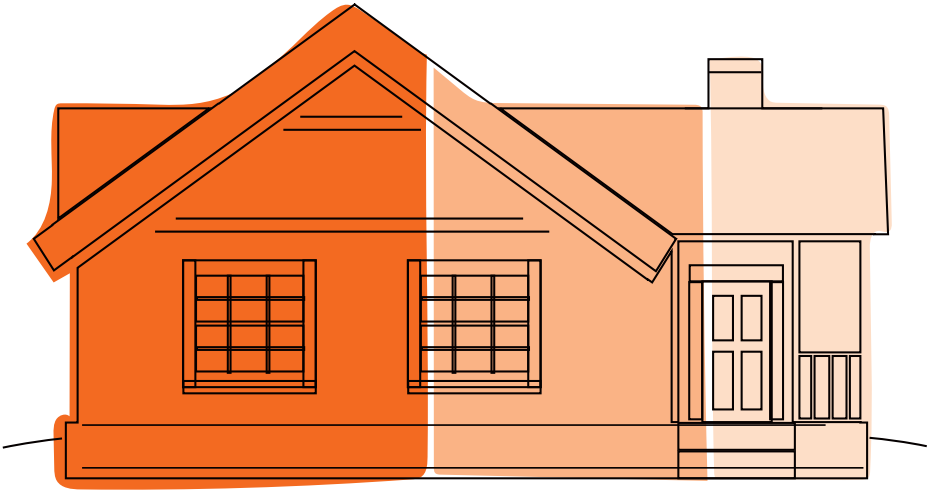
Do you worry about paying your utility bill each month? Does your air conditioner or heat run all the time, but your home never feels comfortable? If so, your home may be wasting energy – and wasted energy means wasted money.

Start following these easy tips so you can wave goodbye to energy waste and open the door for savings!

Starting TODAY, you can cut down your utility bill without a lot of work or money on your part, and without your landlord or an expensive hired professional. Each time you check something off this list, you'll save some cash. The more you do, the more the savings will add up.

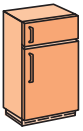
Take Control of Your Home's Biggest Energy Users

Here's what uses the most energy in your home.



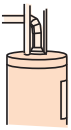
44%

Heating and air conditioning



38%

Appliances, electronics and lighting



18%

Water heating

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Here's How

Start here: *No-cost actions*

☐ **1. Turn off the lights when you leave a room**

When it comes to energy use, the little things you do around the house are a big deal – they add up! Tape a note by the doorway to help you remember.

☐ **2. Wash your clothes in cold water**

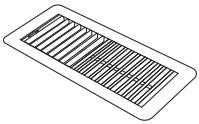
It's not how you were taught to do laundry, but cold water really will get your clothes just as clean, without draining your wallet. Save money *and* time by combining all colors of clothes to do fewer loads. (Dirty cloth diapers still need to wash in hot water, though.)

☐ **3. Keep your thermostat as high in summer and as low in winter as you comfortably can**

Every degree you raise the temperature in summer or lower it in winter will save you money! Aim for 78 degrees in summer or 68 degrees in winter to make the biggest change in your bill. Try adjusting it one degree a day so you don't feel as big a difference. If your heating or cooling system runs all the time, this tip is extra important.

☐ **4. Check your air vents**

Be sure to move any furniture that blocks the vents (or the return) in rooms you regularly use. Close the vents in rooms you don't use, and then close the doors to those rooms. You can keep indoor air from escaping under doors and windows by blocking it with rolled-up towels.



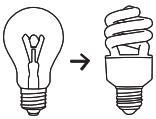
Ready for more: *Low-cost home improvements*

☐ 5. Seal air leaks around doors and windows

If you have cracks and gaps in your home – a very common problem – it's not just your indoor air that's leaking out. Your money is basically leaking out too! Use caulk or weather stripping around doors, windows, and attic and crawl space entrances to stop leaks. Both of these products are easy to apply and can be bought for less than $10 at local hardware stores.

☐ 6. As your light bulbs burn out, replace them with CFLs or LEDs

These bulbs cost a few dollars more than regular old incandescents, but they're worth it. They'll last 10 to 25 times longer and use about 75% less energy, so the dollars you save will add up fast.



☐ 7. Use a power strip for electronics and turn it off when not in use

When electronics and chargers are turned off but plugged in (even if fully charged), they still suck up enough energy to cost you up to $100 per year. If you buy a power strip (most are less than $10), you can plug your devices into it and easily turn off the strip while your devices aren't charging or in use. Try turning off the strip every time you leave the house.

Take Your Savings Power to the Max

The more steps you check off, the more you can save. Take the next step and keep even more of your money where it belongs – in your pocket. **Visit www.savingsinthehouse.com for more information and advice!**

City of Knoxville

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