

Low-cost and no-cost tips to save money and use less energy

As a renter, you can make small, affordable changes to help increase the comfort of your home and lower your energy costs.

- Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Install water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Clean or replace filters monthly to help your furnace or air conditioner work at peak efficiency.
- Unplug battery chargers (e.g. power tools, mobile phones, laptops, etc.) when not in use.
- Turn off lights when not needed.
- Use a countertop convection or microwave oven, or smaller electric appliance, instead of a full-size stove whenever possible.
- Turn down the thermostat to 65–68 degrees during the day and 58–60 degrees at night during cooler months. If you have a heat pump, turn the thermostat down no more than 10 degrees at night.
- Install an ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostat so it adjusts automatically.
- Wash and rinse laundry with cold water. To save more energy and water, run full loads.
- Caulk small holes and cracks around plumbing pipes, exhaust fans, dryer vents, sink and bathtub drains, fireplaces and under countertops.
- Use the water-saver washing and energy-saver drying options on your dishwasher.
- Check to make sure refrigerator/freezer gaskets seal tightly.
- Clean lint filters after drying each load of clothes.
- Use pots and pans with flat bottoms.
- If you plan to purchase a new clothes washer, dishwasher or refrigerator, choose ENERGY STAR models. (Energy Trust offers cash-back incentives for qualified ENERGY STAR clothes washers and refrigerators.)
- Install exterior wall switch and outlet gaskets to prevent air loss and infiltration.
- Close fireplace and wood stove dampers when not in use, but wait several hours after the fire dies down.

Your landlord can help

You may be able to save more in the long run when your landlord installs energy-efficient improvements such as insulation, duct sealing, direct-vent gas room heaters, water heaters, heat pumps and high-efficiency furnaces. Your landlord can save as well.

Energy Trust can help with free advice and financial incentives. To make the case to your landlord, call 1-866-311-1822 or go to www.energytrust.org/renters and download the property owner flyer.

Talk to your landlord today.

Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to energy efficiency and renewable energy development. Our mission is to change how Oregonians produce and use energy by investing in efficient technologies and renewable resources that save dollars and protect the environment. We serve Oregon customers of Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, NW Natural and Cascade Natural Gas.