

Maintaining a Conservation Friendly Temperature in Your Home

Your thermostat controls heating and cooling which consumes more than half of the energy in your home.

HEATING -

- In winter, a thermostat set at 68 degrees or lower during the day when the home is occupied is recommended. Your kilowatt-hour usage for heating increases approximately 3% for each degree of temperature setting above 68 degrees.
- Lower the thermostat a degree or two before you entertain a large group of people.
- Keep your fireplace chimney damper closed when you are not using the fireplace.
- Open window shades, drapes and/or blinds that receive direct sunlight during the day.
- Close shades, drapes and/or blinds at night.
- Use bath and kitchen exhaust fans only when needed during the heating season. Fans draw heated air out of your home.
- Use space heaters as little as possible, as they are very expensive to operate.
- Close dampers on unused fireplaces.
- Use kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans sparingly. In just one hour, these fans can exhaust a house of warm air.
- Close vents and doors to unused rooms. Avoid heating un-insulated areas such as garages and crawl spaces. Keep your garage door closed as much as possible.
- Wear layers of clothing and use extra blankets.

NATURAL GAS HEATING -

- The recommended thermostat control setting for your furnace is 68 degrees F during the heating season or a range of 65–72 degrees.
- Set your thermostat back by 5 or 10 degrees when sleeping or when your house is empty for more than four hours.
- Provide home management with timely access to change furnace filters and provide furnace service.
- Keep heating vents clear of furniture and draperies and keep dampers open.
- Vacuum dust and pet fur from warm-air registers and cold-air returns.
- Remove dust and lint from registers, vents and baseboard heaters.

COOLING -

- In summer, a thermostat set at 78 degrees is recommended if the home is occupied. Your kilowatt-hour usage for cooling increases approximately 3% for each degree of temperature setting below 78 degrees. During unoccupied hours, turn off the air conditioner.
- When adjusting the thermostat, remember that the house will not warm up or cool down any faster if you crank up the thermostat past the desired temperature. Besides, it is easy to forget to turn it back, which will waste energy dollars.
- Use ceiling fans.
- Leave window shades, drapes and/or blinds closed during the day to keep out direct sunlight during hot periods.
- Run kitchen and bath exhaust fans long enough to rid the house of unwanted vapor, smoke and odors during the summer. Running them too long allows cool air to escape.
- Avoid using evaporative coolers or humidifiers at the same time an air conditioner is running.
- Try to use the oven, dishwasher and other appliances that produce heat during the late evening and early morning.
- A thermostat should not be located by household items that can produce heat (i.e. lamp, stereo, television)
- Check and clean or replace air filters every month. Clean the outside condenser coil in the spring and fall.
- Open windows during the moderate weather of spring and fall to admit outside air for cooling instead of operating air conditioning equipment.
- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothes.