



## Investing in Energy Efficiency: Know What Your Home Needs

Many of us spent 2020 cleaning out the garage, doing yardwork and finally checking off the home improvements on our to-do lists. If you're still looking for ways to increase the value and comfort of your home, it might be time to consider some energy efficient upgrades.

Before deciding what to tackle first, consider the age of your home. If it was built in the last 10 years, you may just need lighting upgrades or want to add a smart thermostat so you can adjust your heating and cooling schedule from your smart phone (and you may qualify for an Idaho Power smart thermostat incentive). However, you might be surprised that Idaho Power's Home Energy Audit program has found many newer homes can still benefit from air sealing and insulation.

Check out this list of energy-efficiency upgrades recommended by Idaho Power's weatherization contractors and other local energy-efficiency experts.

For more information on energy-efficiency resources and incentives, visit [idahopower.com/save](https://idahopower.com/save).

Your home's energy-efficiency baseline, before any improvements, depends on the state energy codes in place when it was built. Idaho recently adopted the 2018 energy code, which became effective on Jan. 1, 2021. Codes are always evolving and have come a long way in the last 10–20 years. For example, homes built between 2000 and 2009 use 15% less energy per square foot than homes built in the 1980s, and they use 40% less energy than homes built before 1950.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0166046213000677](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0166046213000677)

### PRE-1970 HOMES



- ✓ Add insulation in this order: attic, walls, floors
- ✓ Seal and insulate ductwork
- ✓ Seal air leaks and duct chases as you insulate
- ✓ Upgrade to an efficient heat source
- ✓ Replace single-pane windows and uninsulated exterior doors

### 70s AND 80s HOMES



- ✓ Seal and insulate ductwork
- ✓ Add insulation in this order: attic, then floors
- ✓ Seal air leaks and duct chases as you insulate
- ✓ Upgrade to a more efficient heating and cooling system
- ✓ Replace aging appliances with ENERGY STAR® models
- ✓ Ensure exhaust fans work

### 90s AND NEWER HOMES



- ✓ Consider replacing single-pane or metal-frame windows
- ✓ Seal ducts, boots and plenums
- ✓ Seal air leaks and duct chases
- ✓ Check quality of insulation installation
- ✓ Add floor insulation
- ✓ Check HVAC equipment for correct sizing





# Kitchen Tips for an Energy Efficient Valentine's Day!

While we all may be tired of eating at home, making a home-cooked meal for your sweetie is a great way to show your love! If you're preparing to cook a delicious Valentine's Day meal, we hope you'll take the opportunity to make it both tasty *and* energy efficient. Here are some of our best tips for being energy efficient in the kitchen:

- Smaller appliances use less energy, so consider using your crock pot, pressure cooker or microwave when making meals.
- When you do use your oven, bake multiple items at once or one right after another.
- On the stovetop, match the size of your pot or pan to the size of the burner.
- When changing kitchen lightbulbs, use ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs. They save 75% or more on energy use and can last more than 20 years.

- Want a romantic dinner setting? Use candles instead of lights to keep energy costs low while creating ambience.
- Run only full loads of dishes and avoid using the heat-dry cycle.
- Let leftovers cool before putting them in the refrigerator. This prevents the food from heating up the refrigerator and causing it to work extra hard.
- And if you're thinking about getting a new kitchen appliance for your Valentine, choose ENERGY STAR. These products meet strict energy efficiency standards.



## Want to Learn More about Energy Efficiency?

### Our energy advisors are here to help!

If you have a group interested in learning more about energy efficiency, we would love to visit with you. Our education and outreach energy advisors have several engaging programs (including virtual!) for anyone from kindergarteners to seniors. They will guide you through easy ways you can save energy in your everyday life — and probably leave you with a few fun goodies as well! Reach out to the advisor serving your area at [idahopower.com/learn](http://idahopower.com/learn).

If you'd like to learn more about energy efficiency at your home or business, contact your residential and commercial energy advisor. You can find yours based on zip code and contact them at [idahopower.com/contact-your-energy-advisor](http://idahopower.com/contact-your-energy-advisor). Your energy advisor can help customize ways for you to save energy and money and advise you on any other questions you may have about your energy service.

## From the Energy Efficient Kitchen

Feb. 2021  
Dessert

### Chocolate Lover's Pudding

½ cup sugar	2 ¼ cups milk
¼ cup cocoa	1 tsp butter
2 tbsp cornstarch	1 tsp vanilla
¼ tsp salt	

In a medium mixing bowl, stir together sugar, cocoa, cornstarch and salt. Gradually stir in milk. Microwave on high power for 5 minutes, stirring once halfway through. Continue to cook on high power for an additional 2 to 3 minutes, or until mixture thickens. Stir in butter and vanilla. Pour into individual serving dishes. Cover and chill. Makes four servings.

Recipe selected from Idaho Power's Centennial Celebration Cookbook.

