



## Keep **GOOD ENERGY**

### in the Room with Energy-saving Tips

Summer weather has arrived, and that can mean increased energy use (and higher bills) as we cool our homes and businesses. Here are some low- and no-cost tips to help you stay cool and manage your summer energy use.

- **Check your thermostat setting and align it with your comfort and budget.** In the warmer months, each degree you raise your thermostat reduces cooling costs by 2–3%.
- **Use ceiling fans, floor fans and box fans instead of reducing the A/C temperature.** Fans can make you feel up to four degrees cooler. But remember: fans cool people, not air, so remember to turn them off when you leave the room.
- **Close windows and blinds during the day or when you're out of the house, especially on the east and west-facing sides.** If safe to do so, open windows at night or in the morning to let in cooler air.

- **Keep doors closed as the outdoor temperatures rise** — and seal air leaks with spray foam, caulk or weatherstripping to prevent losing cool air to the outside.
- **Do laundry and run the dishwasher in the early morning or late evening hours.** This avoids adding heat to your home during the warmest part of the day.
- **Vacuum refrigerator and freezer coils.** Dust, dirt and pet hair can prevent the coils from releasing heat and cause the compressor to run longer. This uses more energy and shortens the refrigerator's life.
- **Change or clean your furnace filters at least twice a year.** Dirty filters block necessary airflow and significantly reduce an HVAC system's efficiency and life.
- **Use a drying rack or clothesline instead of the dryer** — even taking clothes out a few minutes early to “finish” on a rack will save energy.

#### Get the Best Value for Your Dollar

Once you've taken a few easy steps to manage your summer energy use, consider going a step further. Investing in energy-efficient improvements can save you more energy and money. Start at the top of this list and work your way down. Items at the beginning of the list are simpler and cost less.

#### Lighting

- Install LEDs
- Use timers and occupancy sensors
- Use photo sensors for outdoor lighting

#### Leaks and Holes

- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows
- Seal leaky ductwork

#### Appliances and Products

- Buy EnergyStar® appliances
- Purchase a smart thermostat

#### Insulation and Air Sealing

- Add insulation and seal leaks in attics, walls, foundations and crawl spaces

For more energy saving tips and programs, visit [idahopower.com/save](https://idahopower.com/save).



# Energy-saving Vacation Tips

If you plan to head out on a vacation this summer, the last thing you want to worry about is your energy bill. Here are some basic steps to take before you leave town:

- **Turn off lights.** Consider using energy-efficient LEDs along with security timers and motion sensors or smart bulbs (controlled by an app on your cell phone or tablet) to create a lived-in look.
- **Turn off your A/C or raise the temperature.** Remember, if you set your thermostat to 85°F and the temperature outside gets to 95°F, your A/C will provide 10 degrees of cooling for the empty house. Install a smart thermostat, and your home can be cool and comfortable in time for your return.
- **Switch off computers and power strips, and unplug small appliances and electronics.** This will cut energy use 24/7 and reduce fire hazards.
- **Turn your electric water heater down or turn it off to save electricity while you're gone.** If you turn it off, it will take about four hours to reheat once you turn it back on.
- **Consolidate refrigerators and freezers.** Unplug the empties, and leave doors propped to keep the insides odor-free.

Want to see how much energy your home used while you were gone? Log into My Account at [idahopower.com](http://idahopower.com) and visit the "Usage" page.

Meet Tina and Mike, our newest energy-saving champions at [YouTube.com/IdahoPower](https://www.youtube.com/IdahoPower).

## How Much Does It Cost to Power Items in Your Home?

Have you ever wondered how much your entertainment system adds to your power bill or how much electricity your morning pot of coffee requires?

Check out an Energy Efficiency Kit at your local public library and find out how much electricity it takes to keep the appliances and electronics in your home up and running. The kit features a Kill-A-Watt™ meter (a device that measures the energy consumption of appliances in your home), instructions for using the meter and tips for saving energy.

The meter is easy to use! Plug the Kill-A-Watt meter into a standard three-prong electrical outlet, then plug your appliance into the meter. The meter measures the amount of power used, helping you identify potential savings by either unplugging items when not in use or replacing it with a more energy-efficient model.

Use the readings from the Kill-A-Watt meter in conjunction with the calculator at [idahopower.com/killawatt](http://idahopower.com/killawatt), to see how much money you can save by making some small adjustments at home.

One kilowatt-hour (kWh) of energy is usually enough electricity to:

- Vacuum for an hour
- Brew 90 cups of coffee
- Iron 11 shirts
- Cook breakfast for a family of four
- Watch TV for 10 hours

### DID YOU KNOW?

On average, a single-family home in Idaho Power's service area uses about 950 kWh per month.

### From the Energy-efficient Kitchen

June 2023  
Beverage

## Peachy Dream

- 4 large, ripe peaches
- 2 cups crushed ice
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 6-ounce can frozen pink lemonade concentrate



Peel and pit peaches and put into a blender. Add lemon juice and lemonade concentrate and blend until smooth. Gradually add ice, blending periodically until mixture has a fine, slushy texture. Makes four servings.

Recipe selected from Idaho Power's Centennial Celebration Cookbook.

