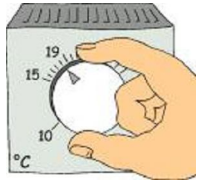


Energy savings: Getting the most for your money

There are many things that you can do in your home to help save energy, including those listed here.

- ü Replace incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs. Fluorescent bulbs cost more initially but last a lot longer.

- ü Make sure your doors and windows fit tightly and have weather stripping, including the door to the garage.



- ü Fix faucet leaks, especially hot water leaks, and if the leak is streaming instead of dripping.

- ü Lower the thermostats on your water heater and heating system, and increase it on your cooling system. For every degree of change, you can decrease your electricity bill by about 2%. Don't lower your water heater below the manufacturer's recommended setting, though, which is usually marked on the thermostat or shown in the user's guide.

- ü Have a home energy audit done every couple of years. Many utility companies do these free. With the audit in hand, you'll know exactly what you can do to save money on your utility bills.

- ü Check your air filter monthly and clean or replace it if it is dirty. Dirty filters cause your heating and cooling system to work overtime, thereby wasting energy.



- ü Install landscaping that does more than just look good. The right mix of trees and shrubs can lower your utility bills by blocking winter winds or summer sun. Check with your local nursery for guidance on selecting appropriate vegetation.

- ü If you're buying a new appliance, look for the "Energy Star," which indicates that the appliance meets standards set by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

- ü Proper roofing material and adequate insulation (don't forget the attic) are essential to saving money. While building codes typically dictate the minimum amount of insulation, a home owner replacing a roof may choose a roof based on looks rather than energy efficiency. A recent study proved that roof color can make a difference: light-colored roofs do the best job of reflecting the sun.

- ü Whether the energy-saving changes you're prepared to make are big-ticket items (such as a roof, central heating and cooling, or an appliance), or inexpensive items such as changing light bulbs or getting a room heating or cooling system, be sure to check with your utility company for rebates. You might be surprised to see how rewarding energy efficiency can be in terms of savings and in terms of rebates from your utility company.



A diamond-shaped graphic with a blue border and a yellow square inside. At the top is a yellow house icon. Below it, the text reads: "The Home Base" in a script font, "Real Estate Library" in a sans-serif font, and "at www.AspecResidential.com" in a smaller sans-serif font. Below that, it says "Brought to you by:" followed by the ASPEC logo (a house icon) and the text "ASPEC Residential Services, LLC", "419-782-8924", and "800-609-1184".