



Adjust Your Thermostat

A large portion of your monthly utility bill is based on your heating and cooling usage. You can save money on your utility bill by simply lowering or raising the temperature on your thermostat by a few degrees depending on the season.

Take Advantage of the Sun

During cold weather, take advantage of the sun's warmth by keeping window shades and drapes open during daylight hours. Then during the summer months, close window shades and drapes (especially during the daytime) to help block some of the heat from that hot summer sun.

Check Your Fans

In the winter, ceiling fans should rotate clockwise at a low speed to pull cool air up. The gentle updraft pushes warm air, which naturally rises to the ceiling, down along the walls and back towards the floor making the room feel warmer. In the summer, ceiling fans should rotate counterclockwise to push cool air down to the floor. The cool air evaporates perspiration and creates a wind chill effect, which makes you feel cooler without affecting the room temperature.

Don't Over Dry Your Clothes

It's easy to over dry your clothes, if one setting is used for various fabric types. Try to dry loads made up of similar fabrics, so the entire load dries just as the cycle ends. A dryer operating an extra 15 minutes per load can cost you up to \$34, every year.

Making Cents of Space Heaters

Space heaters are not designed to heat an entire apartment. They are most effective used to heat small spaces for short periods of time. Most electric heaters use 1,500 watts, but some are slightly less or slightly more. If you are using a 1,500-watt heater and 1,000 watts equals 1 kilowatt, that means your heater uses 1.5 kilowatts of power. Running a 1,500 watt heater for 8 hours a day will cost you roughly \$36 a month.

Take Showers, Not Baths

A ten minute shower can use less water than a full bath. With a low-flow shower head, a 10-minute shower will use about 25 gallons of water, saving you five gallons of water over a typical bath. A low-flow shower head can also save money on energy – up to \$145 each year on electricity – beating out both the bath and an old-fashioned shower head. Avoid moisture problems and control humidity in your bathroom by running your ventilating fan during and 15 minutes after showers and baths.