

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

Get A Programmable Thermostat

A programmable thermostat is one of the most convenient ways to save on energy and money. The settings help regulate a home's temperature and develop a program that automatically reduces heating and cooling in your home when you don't need as much.

Try Energy-Efficient Lighting

There is a variety of energy efficient lighting available on the market today that can save a considerable amount of money and energy. Compact fluorescent light bulbs consume 75 percent less energy, produce virtually no heat and last about ten times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Shut Down And Unplug Electronics

Computers, cable boxes, coffee makers, cell phone chargers and countertop microwave ovens are some common electronic devices that when consistently plugged in, pull a small steady stream of electricity all day long. To save on energy consumption, plug multiple items into a single power strip.

Use Cold Water For Laundry

The best way to save money when doing the laundry is to wash clothes in cold water. When used with cold-water detergent, washing in cold water is actually better for clothes. About 90 percent of the energy used for washing clothes is for heating the water. Using the cold setting significantly cuts down electricity cost and avoids the emission of 1,281 pounds of carbon dioxide annually.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Save Water Outside

When watering your lawn, water at sunrise, or water at sunset, but try not to water near mid-day when the sun is most likely to evaporate it. And, since small water droplets or mist from sprinklers can evaporate easily, select a sprinkler that emits larger drops and distributes water closer to the ground. Finally, adjust your sprinklers so that only your lawn is watered, and not the house, sidewalk or street.

Maintain Your Sprinkler System

Check for leaks in your sprinkler and hose connections. It might seem like you're losing just a few drops, but it could be adding up to gallons of wasted water every day.

Install Irrigation Moisture-Sensors

Soil-moisture sensors can indicate when soil has dried to the point where irrigation is required, while also indicating when the soil profile is full of water. This helps to prevent over watering and over-drying of lawns, thus maintaining healthy lawns in addition to saving water and money. Saving water by investing in moisture sensors is a meaningful way to Live Green.

Recycle Rainwater From Your Roof

Recycle rainwater from your roof by installing a rainwater tank, and recycle water from inside your home by collecting shower water in a bucket, or redirecting excess water from your HVAC system and washing machine outlet.

RECYCLING TIPS

Recycle At Home

Recycling at home is an easy and extremely impactful step to Live Green. For example, recycling one aluminum soda can saves 96% of the energy used to make a can from ore, and produces 95% less air pollution and 97% less water pollution.

Reuse Water Bottles

With plastic not being biodegradable, unless properly recycled, millions of water bottles end up left in landfills or waterways. By regularly washing plastic water bottles, they can be reused and refilled with filtered water straight from the tap, cutting down on waste.

Grocery Shop In An Eco-Friendly Way

Between 500 billion and a trillion plastic grocery bags are consumed worldwide every year. A growing trend in Living Green is the use of eco-friendly grocery bags. These bags are usually larger than the ordinary plastic grocery bag, and they can be reused over and over again. Reducing waste and pollution are two important consequences of using eco-friendly grocery bags, and it's another easy step towards Living Green.

Lose The Disposable Coffee Filters

Reusable coffee filters serve the same purpose as paper filters, and only need to be cleaned out between uses. The reduction in environmental impact is huge, and so is the impact on your time and money. This quick and easy fix can make an impactful contribution in decreasing the amount of household waste thrown away every year.

GREEN LAWN CARE TIPS

Make Your Lawn Green

Select new plants for your garden that won't require much additional watering, and use mulch to help retain water by keeping the sun off your soil. Also, a great alternative to the traditional lawn in the backyard is planting a garden with different vegetables and legumes all year round, depending on your climate.

Fertilize Organically And Naturally

Synthetic fertilizers contain toxic chemicals that can contaminate your soil and water systems, while organic fertilizer can actually improve soil quality. Synthetic fertilizer works quicker than the typical slow-release organic fertilizer, but the chemicals in the synthetic brands can be damaging to roots, especially when over-fertilized. And since handling synthetic fertilizer requires extra safety precautions such as gloves and masks, organic fertilizer is naturally the way to go.

Kill Weeds Without The Chemicals

There are a few effective ways you can kill weeds without having to resort to dangerous chemicals. Boiling water can be effective, especially for weeds that grow through expansion joints and gaps of sidewalks and driveways. A strong saline solution can also be used on weeds that spring up between driveway/walkway pavers or cracks. Lemon juice can be an effective weed killer as well. For broad leaf weeds, try using neat white vinegar. And one of the best ways to prevent weeds from growing in the first place is to use mulch.

OTHER OUTDOOR TIPS

Clean Your Grill - Without The Harsh Formulas

There's a simple, organic way to clean your outdoor grill, without having to use the typical store-bought chemical formulas and sprays. All you need is a little bit of baking soda, a little bit of vinegar and a stiff brush. Apply some baking soda to the rack, then dab it with vinegar, which will create a foam. Then scrub the rack with the brush, and be sure to rinse it before its next use.

Make Your Swimming Pool Green - In A Good Way!

Pool owners can lessen your pool's environmental impact by using a pool cover, as uncovered pools lose thousands of gallons of water every year through evaporation. Also, chlorine from your pool water can be very damaging to waterways or lawns, so you should avoid adding chlorine for approximately one week before draining the pool. Finally, consider a bubble cover or blanket that collects solar energy and locks in the heat for your pool water, rather than using pool heaters which require a lot of energy (and a lot of money) to run.

GREEN OFFICE TIPS

Be Eco-Friendly In The Office

Being green in the office is easy by just following a few simple tips: install duplex printing units (double sided printing) to save paper, activate "sleep" mode on computers, so that when it is not being used, it will switch to an energy saving mode, turn off and unplug (if possible) any equipment not being used when you leave and bring a coffee mug to work so you don't have to use Styrofoam cups.

Recycle In The Office

Recycling in the office can be accomplished in many ways: use recycled paper, recycle empty printer cartridges, use the blue paper recycle bins, if you don't already, and encourage your office to get them if they don't use them already.

Focus On Saving Paper

How much paper do we waste at work? Do we really need to print so much paper? Before you push print, ask yourself is it critical to do so? Are you still getting subscriptions you no longer use? If so, discontinue them. Does your office supply provider take back packaging for reuse? If not, you might want to consider finding one that does.

GREEN TRAVEL TIPS

Slow Down And Maintain Your Vehicle

By reducing your speed to 55 mph from 70 mph, you could increase your fuel efficiency by 23 percent. Also, keep your tires inflated, as not doing so can reduce your fuel efficiency by 3 percent. And keep your spark plugs tuned, since a misfiring spark plug can cut fuel efficiency by 4 percent.

Travel Green

Make one aspect of your vacation or business travel greener by opting not to have your hotel linens and towels laundered daily wherever you stay. This will save both water and energy.



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