



# 8 tips to “green” your home and save money

From the American Bankers Association

Spring is finally here! We just celebrated Earth Day, and the grass and trees are starting to turn green. Now is the perfect time to make sure your home is “green,” to both protect the environment and save yourself some money.

**1. Light up the house, not the electric bill.** Replacing incandescent light bulbs with more energy efficient compact florescent light (CFL) bulbs will save you about \$6 per year in electricity cost per bulb, and more than \$40 over its lifetime. According to ENERGY STAR, if every American home replaced just one light bulb, we would save enough energy to prevent 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

**2. Some like it hot...or cold.** Closely monitor your thermostat. Adjusting it just a few degrees while you're out can save energy and money. You can make it easier by installing a programmable thermostat. Use fans and close the blinds during the warm months and let the sun in for natural warmth in the winter. Also, change your filter every three months.

**3. How low can you go?** One way to save water is by using low-flow toilets. The most cost-effective way to do this is to simply take a one-liter plastic bottle, fill it with water, and place it inside the tank. This will reduce your water use per flush. Another way to save water is by placing an aerator on all of your faucets.

**4. Reduce, reuse, recycle!** Sticking to this mantra can help you save money around the house. Use a rag instead of paper towels. Buy products in bulk, concentrate or refillable containers to reduce packaging waste. Look for products made from recycled content, and don't forget to recycle!

**5. Win-dos for your windows.** There are a number of ways you can make your windows more energy efficient without replacing them. For better insulation from the weather, you can caulk exterior joints, put shrink wrap on them or hang blackout curtains.

**6. Fan the green flames.** To keep your refrigerator running efficiently, keep the fan clean. The motor won't have to work as hard if the fan is clear of debris.

**7. Decorate green.** Houseplants are like living air-filters. English Ivy, rubber trees, peace lilies and red-edged dracaena can help clean the air, and they look pretty too!

**8. Vampire energy is sucking you dry.** On or off, anything plugged into the wall sucks energy. Vampire power costs U.S. consumers more than \$3 billion a year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Unplug your electronics and appliances when they're not in use.

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