



## **Energy Savings Tips for Condominium Residents**

### **Lighting and Electrical**

- Consider low wattage lightbulbs and fluorescent lighting
- Consider use of timers for a more efficient lighting source
- Make sure that you turn off all lights as you exit rooms
- Use energy saving features on computers, monitors and other entertainment devices
- Use task lighting where applicable – instead of lighting the entire room, focus the light where it is needed i.e. use lamps.
- Consider using 3-way lamps
- Use energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs
- Place floor lamps or table lamps in a corner as light will reflect from the two walls
- Ensure that lightbulbs and fixtures are clean as dust or dirt can reduce the light that is being emitted by more than 10%
- Install a light dimmer – an incandescent light dimmed by 25% can save 10% on energy use and extend the life of the bulb.
- Install motion-detecting devices in closets, hallways and bathrooms.
- Keep bulbs and fixtures clean
- Reduce lighting where possible
- If you replace 25% of the lights in high-use areas with fluorescent lights, you can save about 50% of your lighting costs.
- It takes more energy to run two small wattage bulbs than it does to run a single bulb with a higher wattage.
- Look for “Supersaver”, “Wattmiser” or “Econowatt” bulbs, which use 5-13% less energy.

### **Water**

- Install an energy efficient showerhead and faucet aerators to reduce water consumption
- Repair leaking faucets by installing new washers
- Consider the use of a low flow toilet as these toilets can reduce flow by up to 3 gallons per flush
- Resist running hot water continuously while shaving or shampooing
- Shorten showers in order to reduce hot water flow
- Put a few drops of food colouring in your toilet tank. If the colouring appears in your toilet bowl without flushing than you have a leak that should be repaired immediately.
- Open the top of a empty half-gallon milk carton so the entire top forms a square then turn on your shower forcefully. Hold the carton up to the showerhead. If it fills in less than 10 seconds, your shower head is using too much water
- Limit shower time
- Keep a container of drinking water in the refrigerator to avoid running the tap unnecessarily.
- Thaw frozen foods ahead of time, not under running hot water



- Do not use toilets for disposing of trash or waste paper
- Use a “touch test” to see if your plants need watering
- Put a lid on your pot while cooking or boiling water
- Take showers instead of baths. A bath would waste 4 to 5 gallons more water than a shower
- Be sure to keep the faucet lever on the kitchen sink in the cold position when using small amounts of water, placing the lever in the hot position uses energy to heat the water even though it never reaches the faucet.
- Water heating typically accounts for approximately 14% of your corporations utility bill.

### Appliances

#### Refrigerator

- Check your refrigerator door gasket
- Ensure that the condenser coils at the back of the refrigerator are clean and have an adequate flow cycle
- Do not obstruct any vents inside the refrigerator compartments
- Let hot leftovers cool down before putting them in the refrigerator
- Do not overload refrigerators and freezers with food
- Ensure that the refrigerator door is sealed tightly
- Do not place your refrigerator in direct sunlight and try to keep it away from the stove
- Temperatures should be kept between 0 and 5 degrees Celsius
- Choose a fridge with a freezer on top rather than a side by side model. On average, the savings amount to 20%
- Look for a refrigerator with an automatic moisture control. These models have been engineered to prevent moisture accumulation.
- To check the temperature, place an appliance thermometer in a cup of water in the center of the refrigerator. Read it after 24 hours.
- Test your refrigerator door seals by closing a piece of paper in the door so that it is half in and half out of the fridge. If the bill can be pulled out easily, the latch may need an adjustment or the seal may need replacing.
- Cover liquids and wrap foods that you would like to store in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods create excessive moisture and make the compressor work harder.
- Move your refrigerator out from the wall and vacuum it’s condenser coils once a year unless you have a no-clean condenser model. Your refrigerator will run for shorter periods with clean coils.
- Get in the habit of keeping items in the same place in the fridge so that the refrigerator door does not remain open unnecessarily.
- Major energy draining features on refrigerators/freezers are the automatic icemakers and water/ice dispensers on the outside of the door.
- If you have automatic door seals on your refrigerator you can check the door seal by placing a flashlight inside the fridge directed towards the door. Once the light has been placed inside, turn off your lights and check the entire seal (including the bottom) for traces of light getting through.



- Set your refrigerator between 1.7 and 3.3 degrees Celsius and the freezer compartment to -18 degrees Celsius for maximum efficiency and food safety.
- Allow enough space for continuous air flow around your refrigerator as the motors and compressors generate heat. If heat is unable to escape, the cooling system has to work harder thus resulting in more energy usage.

#### Freezer

- Defrost your freezer on a regular basis
- Maintain a freezer temperature at no lower than -18C
- Allow space around your freezer for air circulation
- To check freezer temperature, place an appliance thermometer between frozen packages. Check it after 24 hours.
- Locate freezers away from heat sources and direct sunlight.
- Allow at least 1-inch space on each side of the freezer to allow good air circulation.
- Do not allow frost to build up to more than ¼ of an inch.
- Lubricate gaskets with petroleum jelly to keep them from cracking or drying out.
- Label items in the freezer clearly so that you don't leave the door open unnecessarily.
- Top-loading chest freezers are 10-25% more efficient than uprights because the cold air stays inside rather than spilling out when the door is opened.
- Manual defrost freezers use less electricity than automatic freezers.

#### Microwave

- Defrost food using the natural method opposed to using the microwave
- Never use a two prong adapter or an extension cord to plug in your microwave oven
- Allow space around the Microwave for proper ventilation
- Boil large quantities of water on your stove or in an electric tea kettle

#### Electric Ranges (Ovens)

- Do not preheat your oven longer than necessary, no longer than 10 minutes is recommended
- Make sure that oven seals are kept clean and properly fitted
- Use alternatives to the oven whenever possible, i.e. – microwaves, crock pots or pressure cookers
- Choose the burner size that matches your pot
- Baking defrosted foods uses one third less energy than starting with frozen food
- Never line your oven with aluminum foil as this could reduce hot air flow, instead use a cookie sheet to catch droppings or spills.
- Thawing foods allows you to reduce the recommended cooking time by 30%
- Use glass or ceramic baking dishes as you can lower the baking temperature by 25 degrees as these materials retain heat better than others
- Check the reflectors under your stovetop burners. The cleaner they are, the better they will reflect the heat
- Keep your oven door closed. Every time that you open your oven door during cooking, the temperature drops 5 to 10 degrees Celsius.



- If you have an electric cook-top, turn the burner off right before you finish cooking. Make use of the heat that the burner continues to emit while cooling down.
- Every type of element works more efficiently when the bottom of the pan is flat. The more warped the pan, the less contact it has with the burner.
- Self cleaning ovens are more energy efficient than those without the feature because of their extra insulation.

#### Clothes Dryers

- Clean the lint filter of the dryer after every use. A clogged lint filter increases drying time
- Do not overdry your clothes
- When purchasing a new appliance, check the Energuide rating for a more energy wise choice
- Use full loads for clothes dryers.
- Dry towels and heavier cottons in a separate load from lighter items.
- Use the cool down cycle to allow the clothes to finish drying with the heat that is left in the dryer
- Dry towels and heavier cottons in a separate load from lighter-weight clothes
- Put two loads in one after another to make the most of the heat generated the first time around.

#### Washing Machine

- Wait for a full load
- Wash in warm or cold water whenever possible
- Rinse in cold water where possible
- Front Load washers use approximately half of the water that a conventional washing machine uses and spins faster which results in shorter drying times.

#### Dishwasher

- Do not overload
- Do not do half loads
- Use shorter cycles when you have easy to clean dishes
- If your dishwasher has an air-dry setting, choose it instead of the heat-dry setting
- Install your dishwasher away from the refrigerator as the dish washers heat makes the refrigerator work harder
- Check the manual that came with your dishwasher for the manufacturer instructions on water temperature and filling of the racks.
- Scrape *do not* rinse off large food particles and bones. Soaking or prewashing dishes is only recommended for heavily soiled utensils.
- Do not use the “rinse hold” function for a few soiled dishes as it wastes 3 to 7 gallons of hot water each time you use it.
- Choose the light wash setting whenever possible.
- Air-dry the dishes instead of having the dishwasher pump hot air over them.
- Dishwashers built after 1994 use only 7-10 gallons per cycle.



- Regularly clean the filter at the bottom of your dishwasher to keep the machine running efficiently.

#### Tips for winter

- Turn down the thermostat to 16C when leaving your suite for an extended period of time
- Try to avoid turning the thermostat up and down frequently – choose an appropriate temperature and leave the thermostat there
- Ensure that heating vents are not blocked
- Check all filters and fan coil units once every few months to ensure that they are operating properly
- Open curtains to bring in sunshine during the day and close curtains at night to ensure that heat is not being lost
- Report air leaks and drafts from outside to the Property Manager or Superintendent as soon as possible
- Shorten showers in order to reduce the amount of hot water flow to your suite
- Install low flow showerheads
- Install insulated draperies or blinds around large windows
- Keep windows on the south side of your suite clean to maximize solar gain (cold weather)
- Install white window shades, drapes or blinds to reflect heat away from your suite
- Use area rugs on cold floors
- Use kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans wisely. In just 1 hour, these fans can pull out a suiteful of warmed air. Turn fans off as soon as they have done the job.

#### Tips for summer

- Try to operate the thermostat at the highest setting that is comfortable for you – this may also prevent cooling equipment from shutting off on days when you actually need it.
- Exhaust fans in kitchens, bathrooms and laundry rooms should be used to expel heat and moisture from your suite
- Close curtains when leaving your suite for extended periods
- Keep doors and windows closed when you are operating air conditioning equipment – this may also prevent cooling equipment from shutting off on days when you actually need it
- Ensure that cooling vents are not blocked
- Open a window or opt to use a ceiling fan on cooler days, instead of running the air conditioner
- Install an automatic set back thermostat which will turn off your air conditioner at night
- Use a smoking incense stick to find drafts. If the smoke dances then you have a place that needs to be sealed
- Air Conditioning thermostats should be set no cooler than 25.5 degrees Celsius. Each degree setting below 26 degrees Celsius will increase your energy consumption by approximately 8%



- Turn off unnecessary lights in the house as they produce a lot of heat which works against the Air Conditioning
- Don't set your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and therefore is a unnecessary expense.
- Use the barbecue (if applicable) instead of your stove as it will save energy and reduce the need to run your air conditioner.

### Interesting Facts

- Fluorescent light is 4 to 5 times as efficient as an incandescent light
- Standard incandescent bulbs use 90% of their energy to make heat and only 10% to make light
- Showerheads use up to 1/3 of all the hot water used in a home
- Convection ovens with fans that circulate the hot air in them are more energy efficient than regular ovens
- Refrigerators with side by side doors use the most energy
- White walls and ceilings reflect 80% of the light whereas dark walls reflect only 10%
- One drop per second from a leaky faucet will waste enough hot water every month for 16 hot baths
- Frost free refrigerators cost 50% more to run
- Leaky faucets dripping at one drop per second could waste 2,112 gallons of water per year.
- Using a ceramic coffee mug conserves the amount of energy it would take to manufacture 500 paper cups
- Recycling paper can cut pollution by 50%, water by 60% and energy consumption by 70%
- Installing aerators on faucets will cut water by as much as 280 gallons of water a month for a typical family of four
- The average home washing machine is used 416 times per year
- Americans buy 2.2 million light bulbs per day
- Direct sunlight is 100 times brighter than the light from a strong reading lamp
- Compact Fluorescent lamps last ten times longer than an incandescent
- Dishwashers commonly use water heated to 140 degrees which is hotter than any other water used in the home
- About 80% of the water that your dishwasher uses heats the water
- On an average summer day, air conditioners pump enough cold air to produce 16 trillion ice cubes
- Refrigerators use 7% of the nations electricity
- Refrigerators account for 25% of the average electricity bill



- If each member of a family of four takes a daily five-minute shower, the family will use more than 700 gallons of water every week, which is a three-year supply of drinking water for one person
- If every gas-heated home were properly caulked and weather-stripped, the natural gas saved would be enough to heat 4 million homes
- About 15% of the energy used for heating homes warms air that is leaking through cracks
- Over a refrigerator's life span (15 to 20 yrs), the electricity it costs to cool costs several times its purchase price
- Twelve times as much heat escapes from your house through a single-pane window as through a typical wall
- Ceiling fans consume as little energy as a 60-watt bulb, which is about 98% less energy than most central air-conditioners use
- Canadians waste 340 litres of water per person per day, this is twice as much as the average European consumes.
- The average home spends close to 10% of their electric bills on lighting the home.
- It takes more energy to cool an empty freezer than it does a full one.
- Microwave Ovens use up to 75% less energy than an oven
- In a typical home about 54% of energy costs is for heating and cooling and 20% is in hot water usage.
- Any appliance that is remote control operated still uses electricity even when not in use.
- Using a dishwasher can actually be more efficient than washing dishes by hand, assuming you use the dishwasher once for every 3 or 4 times you would wash dishes by hand.
- In winter, Ontario's greatest demand for electricity usually occurs from 4 PM to 9 PM. Try switching non-essential chores to the off peak times between 9PM and 7AM.
- 60% of the energy used by a computer is used by the monitor
- Contrary to popular belief, less energy is consumed when lights are turned on and off as you come and go than if a light is left on all the time.
- It takes a lot less energy to steam your vegetables over a little bit of water than it does boiling them in a pot of hot water.
- The most efficient refrigerators tend to be in the 16-20 cubic feet range. The larger the refrigerator, the more energy it uses.
- It takes more water to hand wash dishes than it does to run a full load in the dishwasher.
- A clothes dryer that will only allow you to set a timer will cost you 10-15% more in energy usage than those models that are available with automatic cutoffs.
- Flat-panel computer monitors use 1/3 less power of conventional monitors.

#### Holiday Energy Saving Tips

- Large, traditional Christmas Lights use 5 or 7 watt bulbs. If you use this style choose 5-watt bulbs for replacements.
- When buying new lights decorate with energy efficient mini lights or LED lights. Mini lights use approximately 0.35 watts per bulb.





- Icicle lights have more lights per linear foot than regular light strands.
- Use mirrors and tinsel around indoor lights to increase lighting effects.
- Turn lights off when no one is around to enjoy them.
- Take lights down after the holidays.
- Turn back your thermostat when you are away for the holidays. For every 1 degree Fahrenheit you set your thermostat back you can save 1-3% on your heating costs.
- Never use electric lights on old metal artificial trees.
- Consider the use of timers for holiday lighting.

**APPLIANCE USAGE CHART**

Could vary from min. kwh to max. kwh depending on family size and appliance.  
 To calculate cost, just multiply the kwh's by the Distribution Charge and by the Energy kwh Charge and add them together.

APPLIANCE	MONTHLY MIN. KWH	MONTHLY MAX. KWH	APPLIANCE	MONTHLY MIN. KWH	MONTHLY MAX. KWH
Clothes Dryer Electric	30	140	Furnace Fan Continuous	260	
Clothes Washer (with w.h.)	35	200	Furnace Fan Intermittent	50	150
Clothes Washer (other w.h.)	5	20	Humidifier (portable)	10	60
Computer	5	35	Lighting	20	150
Dehumidifier	40	260	Microwave	5	30
Dishwasher (with w.h.)	20	120	Range Electric	125	625
Dishwasher (other w.h.)	5	20	Refrigerator Frost Free	75	150
Electric Heater (1000 watts)	30	90	Television	5	40
Freezer	60	140	Water Bed Heater	60	120