

# Energy Tips

*Just a few small changes around the house can add up to big savings on your energy bills.*

At SCE&G, we're committed to providing you with the information you need to help you better understand your energy usage and manage your energy bills.

*Here are a few simple tips for increasing your home's efficiency:*

**During winter months set your thermostat at 68 degrees or lower.** Each degree above 68 degrees can increase your heating costs by 8 to 10 percent.

**Turn your thermostat up during the summer.** For every degree you turn your thermostat higher, you reduce your cooling costs. (A 78 degree setting uses 35 percent less energy than a 70 degree setting.)

**Open shades and drapes on sunny winter days to help warm the house.** Keep curtains and shades closed at night or on cloudy days to help reduce the amount of heat that escapes.

**Have a licensed professional to annually inspect your ducts for leaks.** Duct leakage can cause your energy usage to increase considerably.

**Make sure your space heating unit is not blocked by shrubbery, leaves or other objects.**

**If you have a gas water heater, remember to set it on "vacation" or whenever you're gone for two days or more.** If you have an

electric water heater, turn it off unless freezing is a possibility.

**Use low-wattage light bulbs and replace incandescent bulbs with fluorescent ones whenever possible.**

**Keep your heating and air conditioning system filters clean.** When the filters are dirty or clogged, these systems must work harder, requiring more energy.

**Don't heat or cool unused space in your home.** Close registers in extra rooms or cover them (be sure to use nonflammable material) if they are not adjustable. However, do not close more than 20 percent of the registers in your home. This might interfere with the operation of the central heating/cooling system. Do not block return air vents.

**Clean your thermostat yearly to keep it accurate.** Simply remove its cover and blow away accumulated dust.

Be sure to take a closer look at your monthly energy usage with SCE&G's Energy Analyzer. This tool is included in the account management section of our Web site at [www.sceg.com](http://www.sceg.com). Take a closer look today!



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