



Maintaining the Home

Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet

Maintaining the Home: Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet

- Adjust the thermostat. Turn down the heating thermostat and turn up the cooling thermostat, especially when the house is not occupied.
- Reduce the hot water temperature. Reducing the temperature on your water heater thermostat can decrease heat loss from your tank.
- Reduce lighting. Remove lamps where you have more lighting than you really need. Turn lights off when they are not in use.
- Replace air filters regularly and follow maintenance schedules for furnaces and air conditioners. Replacing dirty air filters can save money by reducing the amount of electricity needed to run a blower motor.
- Install programmable thermostats. These inexpensive devices can help optimize your home's heating and cooling needs.
- Install automatic room lighting controls. These devices optimize lighting use by automatically turning lights on or off depending on occupancy or time of day.
- Turn off machines and equipment when not needed.
- Buy energy-efficient equipment. When buying home appliances such as refrigerators, dishwashers, water heaters and clothes washers, compare energy requirements of various models.
- Seal exterior cracks and holes and ensure tight-fitting windows. Install weather stripping and caulking to stop air leaks.
- Shade sun-exposed windows and building walls. Direct sunlight streaming through windows at the wrong time of the year can substantially increase your air conditioning costs. During the cooling season, use shading methods like window coverings, awnings, trees and bushes wherever possible.

This material was adapted from publications produced by the U.S. Department of Energy. DOE publications can be found on the Web at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/>.

*This resource is one in a series on **Maintaining the Home** which include:*

Interior Maintenance

Preventive Home Maintenance Checkup
Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs
Selection and Use of Home Cleaning Products
Discovering the Secrets of Successful Storage

Heating

Furnace Care
Fireplace and Chimney Care

Cooling

Evaporative Cooler
Air Conditioner
Ceiling Fans

Plumbing

Fixing Plugged Sink Drains
How to Unclog a Toilet
Repairing Dripping Faucets

Electrical

How to Set or Reset a Circuit Breaker
How to Replace a Fuse

Appliances

How to Buy an Energy Efficient Home Appliance
Choosing a Water Heater

Maintenance:

Dishwasher Care and Dishwasher Cleaning
Dryer Care and Dryer Cleaning
Freezer Care and Freezer Cleaning
Garbage Disposal Care and Cleaning
Range and Oven Care and Range Cleaning
Refrigerator Care and Refrigerator Cleaning
Small Electrical Appliance Care and Cleaning
Washer Care and Cleaning

Flooring

Buying new carpet
Carpet Care and Cleaning
Wood Floors Care and Cleaning
Ceramic Tile Floors Care and Cleaning
Vinyl Floor Coverings Care and Cleaning

Walls

Selecting and Applying Paint
Wallpaper Selection and Cleaning
Repairing Walls

Furniture

Furnishing Your New Home: Color and Design
Selecting Fabric For Home Furnishings

Exterior Maintenance

Home Exterior

Foundations, Basements and Yards
Exterior Walls, Windows, and Doors

Roof

A Guide To Roofs
Roof Maintenance

Landscaping and Lawn Care

Principles of Xeriscape
Watering Your Lawn

Home Safety

Child-Proofing Your Home
Is Your Home Safe From Fire Hazards?
Smoke Alarms Save Lives
Carbon Monoxide Alarms
Are Your Children Safe From Poisons?
Protecting Yourself Against Burglary

Conservation

Weatherize Your Home
Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet
How to Stop Air Leaks Around Windows
Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling
Indoor Water Conservation Tips
Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Environment Issues

Green Building
Reduce-Reuse-Recycle: Alternatives for Waste Management
Create a home recycling center
Healthy Indoor Air for New Mexico Homes
Dealing with Mold
Household Hazardous Waste
Hazardous Household Substances: Alternatives That Are Relatively Free of Toxic Effects
Radon

Pest Control

Cockroaches and Their Control
Southwest Insects

Accessible Living

Update your home for a lifetime of living
Vision Loss & Hearing Loss
Hand Dexterity, Strength and Range of Motion
Cognitive Difficulties
Mobility Impairments, Balance and Coordination

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