

- ▶ **Set your thermostat** on your water heater at 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Extremely hot water can lead to scalding accidents. Maintaining a higher-than-necessary temperature uses energy needlessly.
- ▶ **Conserve water, while saving money and energy** by installing low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators, repairing leaky faucets and taking quick showers instead of baths.

## Fireplaces

- ▶ **Consider models** with tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room. An open fireplace is not an efficient heating source. Most of the heat will go up the flue and out the chimney.
- ▶ **Look for** fireplaces with an intermittent ignition. These models eliminate the need for a standing pilot light and reduce natural gas consumption.
- ▶ **Make sure** your fireplace is properly vented. Fireplaces require a great deal of oxygen. If you do not have an outside source of combustion air, your fireplace will draw air from inside the house, including the air you paid to heat.
- ▶ **Keep the fireplace** damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper can let as much as 8 percent of your heat go out the chimney.

### Customer Service

**888-522-1130**

**7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday**

**[www.cngc.com](http://www.cngc.com)**



*In the Community to Serve®*

Si le gustaría recibir esta información en Español, favor de llamar la Compañía de Cascade Natural Gas Corporation.



01/2022

# Energy Efficiency Tips and Ideas

**Help use energy efficiently  
and reduce your energy bills**



*In the Community to Serve®*

## Find ways to save

Visit [www.cngc.com](http://www.cngc.com) for additional energy efficiency tips and other useful information to make your home more energy efficient. **Also available on our website, you will find information about our Residential and Commercial Energy Efficiency Incentive Programs, offering cash-back incentives on high-efficiency upgrades.**

## Space heating

- ▶ **Adjust thermostats:** Set your thermostat to your personal comfort zone and when you are away from home, reduce the temperature by 5–8 degrees Fahrenheit. For homes with elderly people or children, warmer temperatures are recommended.
- ▶ **Install a smart thermostat:** This can be a good investment in homes heated and cooled with central forced-air systems. Smart thermostats can save energy and increase comfort through automatic scheduling, remote control, and energy usage tracking.
- ▶ **Change furnace filters** regularly, generally once per month during the heating season. Furnaces consume less energy if they “breathe” more easily.

## Keeping the cold out

Your heating system basically replaces the heat that is lost through your home’s shell. The most common places where air escapes in homes can be found in:

- Floors, walls and ceilings.
  - Electrical outlets.
  - Plumbing penetrations.
  - Fans and vents.
  - Ducts.
  - Doors.
  - Windows.
  - Fireplaces.
- ▶ **During winter months,** open drapes and shades during the day to let in the sun. Close them at night to keep out the cold.
  - ▶ **Be careful not to block** heating registers – move furniture away from registers to allow heat to circulate freely.
  - ▶ **When replacing older appliances,** consider replacing them with high-efficiency models. They use less energy, which will save you money.
  - ▶ **Avoid closing** too many heating registers or doors to unused rooms. This can cause your furnace to run inefficiently due to the restriction of air movement through your heating system.

- ▶ **Seal leaks** around doors and windows. Also seal other openings around pipes and ducts with caulk or weather-stripping.



- ▶ **Check** to see if your attic walls, crawl space and basement have recommended levels of insulation.
- ▶ **Install** storm, thermal or double-pane glass doors and windows, and/or use thick or lined drapes at night.

## Water heating

In most homes, water heating is the second largest household energy expense, after heating and cooling. To cut your water heating costs, start with the following tips:

- ▶ **In washing machines,** use hot water only on clothing that requires hot water, and always use a cold-water rinse. Rinsing with warm water is wasteful and rarely, if ever, better than rinsing with cold water.
- ▶ **Run appliances** such as dishwashers, washing machines and clothes dryers with a full load.
- ▶ **The location** of the hot water heater can affect the amount of energy that is required. One that is located in a heated area will experience less standby heat loss than one located in a cold basement or chilly outdoor shed.



- ▶ **Replace old water heaters** with models that have a Uniform Energy Factor (UEF) rating of 0.65 or higher. For additional information on high-efficiency water heaters, check out the products on the ENERGY STAR® website at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). Cascade offers rebates on qualifying tankless water heaters. Learn more at [www.cngc.com](http://www.cngc.com).