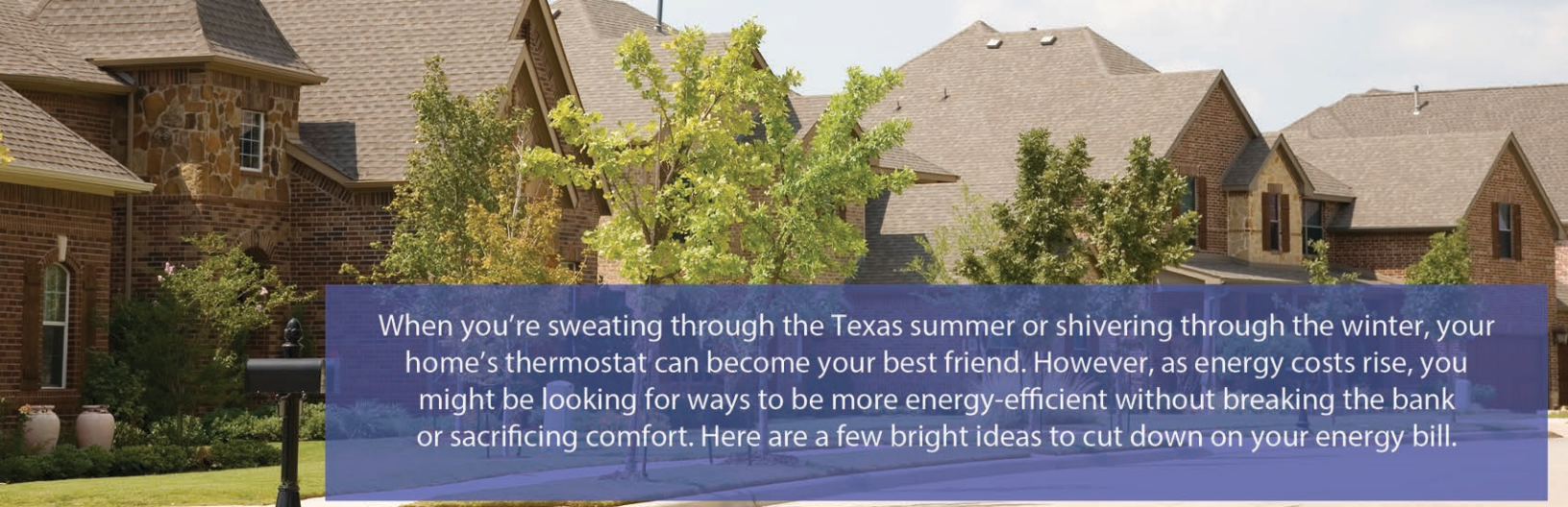


Bright Ideas

FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY





When you're sweating through the Texas summer or shivering through the winter, your home's thermostat can become your best friend. However, as energy costs rise, you might be looking for ways to be more energy-efficient without breaking the bank or sacrificing comfort. Here are a few bright ideas to cut down on your energy bill.

"For every degree you raise the temperature inside, add 3-5% to your electric bill."

Heating

Install plug outlet covers.

Install a glass fire screen to keep heated air from escaping through your chimney.

Insulate your indoor water pipes.

Inspect insulation to make sure it's not blocking ducts or vents. Blown-in insulation can settle over time and may need to be fluffed up or increased.

Set your thermostat at a steady 68°.

If your home uses a heat pump, raise the thermostat setting two degrees at a time when adjusting the temperature. This will avoid running the compressor and supplemental heat at the same time.

Effective caulking can help prevent air from entering and escaping through cracks and gaps around windows and doors.

Remember: Heating a home takes 2-3 times more energy than cooling a home, so the work you do could add up to significant savings during the winter months.

Insulation

Find holes and patches in your house where air can invade and fill it up with plastics or weather strips so that your heating and/or cooling system will not be overworked.

Remember to keep all doors and windows closed at all times.

Cooling

Fans blowing directly on you can make temperatures around you feel up to 4° cooler.

Set thermostat at 78° or higher when the house is occupied and at 85° when vacant.

Keep debris, high grass, and other obstacles away from your air conditioner's condenser so that airflow to the unit is not blocked.

Clean your AC condenser/evaporator coils at the the beginning of the season.

Clean or replace filters at least once a month.

Caulk and weather-strip around your windows and doors.

Shade your outdoor AC unit and plant trees to shade your windows.

Lighting

Turn off lights when leaving a room.

Keep the dust off lampshades and light bulbs. It can reduce lighting levels as much as 50%.

Use LED lightbulbs — not only do they last longer, but they are also more energy efficient. Their lifespan is not affected by how often they are turned on or off, they're quite durable, and they have flexible voltage requirements.



Refrigerators & Freezers

Set the fridge temperature between 36-38° .
Freezers should be set between 0-5° .

Thaw frozen foods using the fridge.

Freezers work best fully loaded with just enough room left for air to circulate.

Make sure your refrigerator and freezer doors seal properly.

Cooking & Other Appliances

Microwave ovens use up to 70% less energy than an electric or gas oven while cooking food up to 75% faster.

Using lids on your pots will bring liquids to a boil more quickly and allow continued cooking at lower temperatures, reducing energy use and heat in the kitchen.

Use cold water as much as possible when doing laundry while making sure you always have a full load before starting.

Never put lamps, TV sets, and other heat generating gadgets beneath your wall-mounted thermostat. Rising heat may cause your conditioning system to turn on unnecessarily.



Stop Wasting Energy: NEST Learning Thermostats

Your thermostat controls about 50% of your energy bill - that's as much as the refrigerator, lighting, TVs, stereos and computers combined. Problem is, a lot of that energy is wasted heating and cooling an empty home.

Programmable thermostats were supposed to help, but 89% of people don't even bother to program them. They're just too complicated. Nest is simple. Its slim design is enclosed by a solid stainless steel ring and works with 95% of low voltage systems.

Nest is designed to be a quick, easy install: three out of four people install Nest themselves in 30 minutes or less. If you're comfortable installing a light fixture, you can install Nest. Everything you need comes in the box.

Too busy? Learn more about Nest Certified professional installation at 855-4MY-NEST

Control from your Wi-Fi Connected Nest Account. Simply connect the Nest Learning Thermostat to your home Wi-Fi to control it from a smartphone, tablet or laptop.

Change the temperature, see and adjust your schedule or settings, and see exactly how much energy you're using.

Detailed Energy History is available on the Mobile and Web app for the last 10 days and Nest sends you an energy summary every month with tips to help you save more.

Nest is secure, private, and reliable. Nest supports HTTPS, SSL and 128-bit encryption. Check your local energy suppliers for special offers on Nest thermostats.

