



Energy Saving Gadgets for Your Home

By Tom Lienhard, PE, CEM

Understanding how you use energy in your home is an important step in reducing your energy costs. A few simple gadgets to complement the efficiency steps you're already doing can help reduce your home's energy use even more. Every little bit really can make an impact on saving energy, money and time.

Smart Strip Plug saves energy by shutting off peripheral electronic devices like printers and scanners which draw energy when they aren't in use. The Smart Strip has three types of plugs – master plug, controlled plugs and uncontrolled plugs. You simply plug your computer into the master plug, and then plug in all the peripherals into the controlled plugs. When you power-off your computer, the Smart Strip automatically shuts off your printer, scanner and anything else that's plugged into it. Smart Strip Plugs are also good for other interdependent electronics like entertainment systems.

Furnace Filter Whistle lets you know when the filter on your heating and cooling system is 50 percent clogged. By regularly changing the filter, you can reduce the risk of breathing unhealthy air and help prevent your system from working harder than necessary.

Shower Timer helps kids and adults spend less time in the shower, reducing energy and water costs. A low-flow showerhead gives you the maximum energy and cost savings, but changing your habits can add additional savings.

Reusable Dryer Ball reduces dryer time by 25 percent, replaces fabric softener, helps fluff clothes and is made from recycled plastic.

7-Day Programmable Hot Water Heater Thermostat programs electric water heaters to turn on and off when needed rather than using energy round the clock.

Programmable Thermostat may be the best energy saving device that you can add to your home to reduce your energy use.

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