

News Release



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Efficiency Maine Offers Top 10 Lighting and Air Conditioning Tips To Homeowners

Augusta, MAINE (July 21, 2004) As Maine residents continue sprucing up their homes, representatives of Efficiency Maine's Residential Lighting Program offer several easy ideas to help reduce energy costs.

There are many simple things you can do to save money on electric bills just by looking around the home.

1. Replace regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). CFLs give the same amount and quality of light as regular bulbs, yet use one-third the amount of energy and last 10 times longer. CFLs can last 6 to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs and save up to \$50 per bulb over the seven-year average life of the bulb. When purchasing CFLs, be sure to check that the bulbs are ENERGY STAR[®] qualified, assuring they are of the highest quality.
2. Install dimmer switches or timers on lights, which can save you between 7%-10% of lighting costs.
3. Look for the ENERGY STAR label when purchasing lighting fixtures. These fixtures meet Federal energy-efficiency and quality guidelines, without a sacrifice in performance. These lights also operate at cooler temperatures.
4. Replace halogen floor lamps and torchieres with compact fluorescent models. Halogen floor lamps pose a fire hazard due to the extremely hot temperatures produced by the high-wattage bulbs and cost more to operate. An energy-efficient compact fluorescent model produces as much light, runs cooler, and uses only a fraction of the electricity.
5. Keep bulbs and fixtures clean. Dirt will absorb the light and reduce the efficiency.

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6. Cooling your home can be a lesson in energy efficiency: ENERGY STAR[®] qualified ceiling fans use energy efficient motors and advanced blade design to move air with less power. Plus, with compact fluorescent lighting (CFL) that produces 70% less heat than regular bulbs, the fan fixture is even more effective.
7. To get ready for warmer temperatures, think about where to place room air conditioners. Don't let an air conditioner bake in the sun. Room air conditioners work best when kept out of direct sunlight.
8. After installing air conditioners for summer use, seal gaps along the sides of the window unit to keep the outside air from seeping in.
9. Clean air conditioner filters regularly. Keep the front and back of an air conditioner clear so nothing gets in the way of its performance.
10. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs. Standard incandescent light bulbs lose 90% of their energy as heat. Compact fluorescent bulbs produce only a fraction of the heat and don't waste electricity.

For more electricity saving information, visit www.energymaine.com.

Efficiency Maine is a statewide effort to promote the more efficient use of electricity, help Maine residents and businesses reduce energy costs, and improve Maine's environment. The Residential Lighting Program is one of several programs offered to achieve this goal. Efficiency Maine is funded by electricity consumers and administered by the Maine Public Utilities Commission.