

Conservation:

The tables shown below have been developed in conjunction with industry and government sources. The information in them applies to homes in the Las Vegas area. Here are practical steps you can take to eliminate wasteful uses of energy in your home.

Insulation

Proper insulation is one of the best investments a homeowner can make. It will reduce energy consumption more than any other single factor, and will literally pay for itself in reduced power bills and go on saving you money year after year. In most existing homes, attic insulation can be easily and economically installed. Wall insulation is also extremely important. In older homes where no wall insulation exists, the cost of adding it is more substantial, but energy savings will be equally dramatic.

Insulation is rated by its "R" value. The "R" stands for resistance. The higher the "R" value, the more resistance to the flow of heat through any given material. R-19 is the minimum amount of insulation suggested for ceilings and R-11 for walls. Many older homes in Southern Nevada are below that standard.

Contact a local insulating contractor. He will be glad to come to your home and give you a free estimate for upgrading your present insulation.

SAVINGS	OPTION	COST OF IMPROVEMENT
Up to 67% of your heating & cooling costs	Upgrade present attic insulation from R-5 to R-19 and upgrade uninsulated walls to R-11	15c-24c/sq. ft. for attic and 65c-90c/sq. ft. for walls. (For blown-in insulation)
Up to 32% of your heating & cooling costs	Upgrade present attic insulation from R-5 to R-19 with existing insulation of R-5	15c-24c/sq. ft.
Up to 11.5% of your heating & cooling costs	Upgrade present attic insulation from R-11 to R-19 with existing wall insulation of R-5	11c-14c/sq. ft.

Water Heating

Next to your heating and cooling systems, the water heater uses the most energy in your home. There are a number of things you can do to save on water heating, as shown on this chart.

SAVINGS IN WATER HEATING ENERGY	OPTION	COST OF IMPROVEMENT
Up to 12%	Reduce hot water temperature from 150° to 120°, or as low as possible and still provide ample supply of hot water. Turn water heater completely off when going on vacation.	(None)
Up to 14%	Minimize hot water usage in bath by 1/3. Remember that an average shower will use less hot water than a bath.	(None)
Up to 10%	Repair leaking hot water faucets. NOTE: Hot spots in floors may indicate leaks in pipes.	Minimal if done by homeowner
Up to 4%	Insulate all exposed hot water pipes.	Cost depends on amount of pipe and accessibility
Up to 5%	Don't operate dishwasher until it is full.	(None)
Varies with use	If dishes need pre-rinsing, use cold water. (You will use more hot water pre-rinsing dishes than a dishwasher will use to wash them.)	(None)
Varies with use	Don't waste hot water on your garbage disposal. It is designed to work with cold water.	(None)
Could be significant	Sort clothes properly and if possible wait until you have a full load to wash or use water level adjustment on machine for occasional smaller loads.	(None)
Could be significant	Pretreat stains and use a cold-water soak instead of an extra hot water wash.	(None)
Could be significant	Use cold or warm wash water instead of hot when possible.	(None)

Space Heating

Space heating is where the most energy is used during winter months. The following suggestions for saving this energy are simple and can often be applied at relatively little cost, or without cost at all. If tips are practiced, a considerable savings will be noticed.

SAVINGS IN SPACE HEATING ENERGY	OPTION	COST OF IMPROVEMENT
Up to 32%	Reduce the thermostat from 74° to 68°	(None)
Up to 20%	Reduce the thermostat from 68° to 60° for an 8 to 12 hour period (at night).	(None)
Up to 2%	Weather strip and caulk in cracks around windows and doors.	50c per 25 ft. for caulking. 25c per ft. for weather stripping.
Up to 10%	Equipment maintenance	\$30 to \$50 per year.
Up to 10%	Change filters at least once a month	\$5 to \$10 per year.
Up to 50%	Replace resistance heaters with heat pump.	Cost of new unit. (Only to be considered when replacing worn out unit or adding additional unit)
Up to 13%	Utilize sun's heat by opening drapes on sun side of home. Close drapes at night and when heavily overcast	(None)
8 to 20%	Close fireplace damper when not in use. The only way to save when using the fireplace is to (1) turn thermostat down or off, (2) crack window in the room with the fireplace and close the door. In this way, all of the warm air in the home will not escape through the chimney.	(None)
Ample savings depending on amount of space closed off	Close vents and doors in seldom-used rooms and close all closets	(None)

Clothes drying

Clothes dryers use about 5000 watts for every hour of drying time. This is equal to (50) 100 watt bulbs burning for one hour.

SAVINGS IN DRYING CLOTHES	OPTION	COST OF IMPROVEMENT
Savings depends on amount of use	Avoid overdrying clothes. Use automatic drying cycle instead of timed cycle to avoid overdrying.	(None)
Savings depends on amount of use	Don't overload the dryer; leave adequate tumbling room for clothes. Saves ironing too.	(None)
Savings depends on amount of use	Clean lint filter before each use.	(None)

Cooking

Cooking uses a very small portion of the total energy consumed in your home. Heating and cooling appliances are generally more power consuming than motor driven equipment such as blenders or can openers.

SAVINGS	OPTION	COST OF IMPROVEMENT
Minimal	If possible, never use range oven when cooking only one item. Bake "oven meals" or additional items to freeze for later use. Preheat only when necessary.	(None)
Minimal	Self clean oven immediately after cooking.	(None)
Minimal	Use surface units on range instead of oven whenever possible.	(None)
Minimal	Use thermostatically controlled portable appliances or microwave oven instead of range surface units whenever possible.	(None) With existing equipment
Ample	Keep refrigerators and freezers clean and defrosted. (The appliance will last longer and use less energy.)	(None)

If you have any specific questions about conservation in your home, please call one of our energy management people at 385-5888.

**NEVADA
POWER
COMPANY**