

HOW MUCH CAN YOU SAVE?

Let's look at a typical Southern California family of three. The family lives in a 1,600 square foot home and spends about \$793 a year on their natural gas bills.

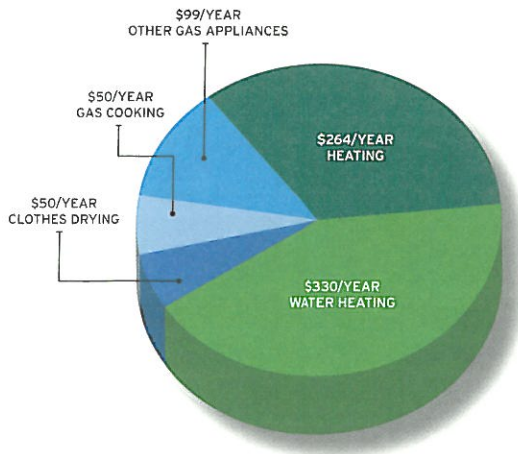
To help reduce energy costs, this family could conserve by taking these few simple steps:

- By lowering their furnace thermostat by 3 to 5 degrees and improving their home's insulation levels, they could save up to 50%, or about \$132 on their annual heating costs.
- By taking shorter, cooler showers, installing low-flow showerheads, and lowering their water heater temperature, they could save up to 25%, or about \$82 on their annual water heating costs.

That's a total of \$214 in annual savings – not bad for your average household!

For more ways to save, see the chart inside.

EXAMPLE OF ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS OF NATURAL GAS APPLIANCES*



* Costs and savings are based on an average Southern California Gas Company single-family residential customer's gas usage and a natural gas rate of approximately \$1.50/therm

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45 WAYS TO SAVE

QUICK TIPS TO MAKE YOUR HOME MORE ENERGY-EFFICIENT



APPLIANCE

SIMPLE STEPS

ENERGY-EFFICIENCY UPGRADES



HEATER

- By lowering your furnace thermostat by 3 to 5 degrees (health permitting), you can save up to 30% on heating costs.
- Keep your heating system tuned-up to operate at maximum efficiency.
- Clean or replace your furnace filter per the manufacturer's recommendation and save up to 2% of heating costs.
- For safety and efficiency, keep all heating vents and furnace registers free of dirt, lint and obstructions.
- Open window coverings during the day to let sun in. Close them at night to help keep the warmth inside.

- Save up to 25% of your heating costs by installing or upgrading insulation in your attic and walls.
- Have your air ducts tested for leaks. Ducts should be repaired with mastic-type sealant – not duct tape. You could save up to 20% of your heating costs.
- Install a programmable thermostat to automatically regulate your home's temperature for comfort control and energy savings.
- Caulk and weather-strip drafty windows and doors and save up to 5% on heating costs.
- When buying a new gas furnace, choose an energy-efficient model. Look for a unit with a higher Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE), or an ENERGY STAR® label.



AIR CONDITIONER

- Set your air conditioner thermostat to 78°F or higher (health permitting).
- Clean or replace filters regularly, according to the manufacturer's recommendation.
- Close blinds or other window coverings to block direct sunlight.
- Use a fan instead of your air conditioner to circulate air.
- Open windows for cool air during the evening and early morning.

- When buying a new electric air conditioner or evaporative cooler, choose an energy-efficient model. Look for a unit with a high Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) and consider an ENERGY STAR model. An ENERGY STAR central air conditioner saves, on average, 20% on cooling costs.



WATER HEATER

- Setting your water heater thermostat at or slightly below the manufacturer's recommendation may prevent scalding and lower your energy costs.
- Bathing can account for over 50% of your hot water usage. Take shorter, cooler showers rather than baths.
- Wash full loads in the dishwasher.
- Fix leaky faucets. One drop of hot water per second can waste 500 gallons per year.

- Install low-flow, water-saving showerheads to cut water use and save up to 10% on water heating costs.
- Insulate exterior, uncovered hot water pipes.
- The energy efficiency of a storage water heater is indicated by its "Energy Factor" (EF). The higher the EF, the more efficient the water heater. For example, a .62 EF 4 gallon model can save up to 10% on water heating costs.



LIGHTS

- Turn off lights (and other appliances) when they are not being used and when you leave a room.
- Consider ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent lights. Although they cost a little more up front, you'll save significantly in the long run. They can reduce lighting costs by up to 60% and last up to ten times longer.
- Wherever possible, use low-wattage light bulbs.

- Save up to 10% by installing dimmer switches or lighting motion sensors.
- Install timers, time clocks or photocells to ensure that exterior lights are turned off at the appropriate time.
- Install ENERGY STAR outdoor light fixtures.



REFRIGERATOR

- You could save up to \$130 a year by unplugging and recycling your extra refrigerator.
- Dirty coils on the back or bottom front of your refrigerator can make it work harder than necessary. Clean and vacuum them at least twice a year.
- Make sure refrigerator seals are airtight.

- When buying a new refrigerator, choose an energy-efficient model. An ENERGY STAR refrigerator could save you up to 40% on refrigeration costs.



CLOTHES WASHERS & DRYERS

- Save up to 10% of hot water heating costs by washing and rinsing your clothes in cold water.
- Line-dry your clothes when possible.
- Clean lint filter before drying each load. Dry full loads, but don't overload or over dry clothes.
- Periodically make sure the dryer's outside moisture exhaust is open and operating properly. Remove any lint buildup.

- Consider switching to a natural gas clothes dryer. Gas dryers are generally less expensive to operate than electric dryers – saving up to 50% on operating costs.
- Consider replacing your old, inefficient clothes washer with a new ENERGY STAR model. High efficiency clothes washers can save up to 50% in energy costs.



POOL AND SPA

- Keep your pool or spa covered when not in use. Well-fitted pool and spa covers help prevent heat loss for energy savings of up to 50%.
- Lower your pool or spa heater's temperature setting.
- Reduce pool filtering and automatic pool sweep to a minimum, and schedule it for "off peak" hours (before noon and after 6:00 p.m.). Check with your pool service technician to determine the minimum number of filtering hours required.

- Consider purchasing a solar pool cover. It uses the sun to heat the water's surface.
- Install a time clock to pre-set and minimize heating hours.
- When it's time to replace your old pool motor and pump assembly, consider a new energy-efficient model to help save on pool filtering costs.