

TAKE ACTION TO SAVE ENERGY

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○ COOLING:

- ✓ **Set** your thermostat at 83°F when leaving home for 5 hrs or more
- ✓ **Set** your Air Conditioning unit at 78°F for comfort and efficiency
- ✓ **Install** ceiling fans in all frequently occupied rooms – particularly bedrooms
- ✓ **then, Raise** A/C thermostats by 2 degrees for the same comfort level.
- ✓ **Keep** windows and doors tightly closed, pull drapes at night
- ✓ **Change** your A/C filter monthly, dirty filters reduces the efficiency of your A/C
- ✓ **Install** a light reflective roof or coat current roof with reflective coating can reduce A/C consumption by up to 25%
- ✓ **Increase** attic insulation to R30 or add a radiant barrier
- ✓ **Plant** drought-resistant native shade trees (such as oaks or gumbo limbos) on the east, south and west sides of the house, it can reduce A/C consumption by about 20%

**Consider buying a high-efficiency A/C unit (SEER of 16 or higher) instead of doing major repairs on your old one.*

○ WATER HEATING:

- ✓ **Turn down** the thermostat on your water heater to 115°F
- ✓ **Insulate** your water heater and all hot water pipes
- ✓ **Do** as much clothes washing as possible with cold water
(use cold water detergents)

**Replacing your unit with a solar water heater can reduce energy use by 70%!*

○ REFRIGERATOR:

- ✓ **Set** your refrigerator at about 40° F and your freezer at about 4°F
- ✓ **Clean** the condenser coils of the unit to maximize efficiency (Use a brush or vacuum)
- ✓ **Don't** allow Frost to build up in your freezer
- ✓ **Replace** old gaskets that leak cold air from the fridge

○ **LIGHTING:**

- ✓ **Switch** to CFL light bulbs to save up to 75% in lighting
- ✓ **Turn off** lights when not in use, even for short time periods
- ✓ **Decorate** with lighter colors to take advantage of natural light
- ✓ **Use** task lighting to illuminate the work areas
- ✓ **Replace** holiday lights/spot lights/down lights with super-efficient **LED lights**

○ **ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCES:**

- ✓ **Hook up** all your electronics on power strips and turn them off when not in use
- ✓ **Unplug** iPod, cell phone, and camera chargers when not in use
- ✓ **Use cold water** for washing light and dark clothes (Use a coldwater detergent)
- ✓ **Use** your clothes washer and dishwasher only with full loads.
- ✓ **Clean** the dryer lint filter after every load

***Always Consider Buying Energy Efficient Electronics And Appliances (Particularly Front-loading Clothes Washers) Instead Of Repairing Old Ones.**

○ **WATER SAVING TIPS:**

- ✓ **Install** low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators to reduce water use.
- ✓ **Install** Water-Sense labeled toilets. A household could save \$90 per year in reduced water costs.
- ✓ **Take** shorter showers instead of baths.
- ✓ **Plant** primarily drought-tolerant native trees and shrubs and mulch heavily to reduce watering requirements
- ✓ **Reduce** lawn areas by planting ground cover
- ✓ **Water** your lawn and plants in the early morning to reduce evaporation losses and no more than once a week—this will save you money and make your lawn healthier.
- ✓ **Defrost** food in the refrigerator a day ahead or microwave; don't use running water.