

ENERGY EFFICIENCY NEVER GOES ON Vacation



Already packing for the well-earned summer vacation? While you are working through that get-away checklist, consider taking a few steps that will help with energy efficiency in your home, even while you are away.

- Turn down the water heater to "vacation mode." Because water heating can account for 14%–25% of the energy consumed in the home. Since a large percentage of the cost of running a water heater is due to the "stand by" losses, this is probably the easiest and most cost-effective money- and energy-saving tip for a home when it is vacant. Just remember to leave yourself a note to turn it back on when you return home.
- Set the programmable thermostat at a higher temperature than usual - as long as there are no pets in the home.
- *Unplug "energy vampires"*. Even when turned off, many electronic appliances still utilize a small amount of electricity. Called phantom loads, these can include items such as a coffee maker, headset chargers, laptop computer, TV, cable box, rechargeable toothbrush, and printer. Americans can waste up to one month's electricity bill each year on vampire energy.
- Keep window shades drawn to help keep the house cool from the afternoon sun.
- Make sure all lights are turned off. For lights on a security timer, use LED bulbs.
- It's always nice to review the month's utility bill and realize how easy it was to save energy and money at home while on vacation.

We hope you have a wonderful, enjoyable vacation!

**KNOWLEDGE IS
POWER**

