

Auditing Your Energy Costs

Four places to recognize, fix, and commit to saving energy in your home.

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10%



1

Lighting

Lighting accounts for about 10 percent of energy costs.

QUICK FIX:

Replace old lightbulbs with incandescent, compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), or light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

COMMITMENT:

Replace existing lamps and light fixtures with energy efficient options, and remember to turn off the lights when leaving the room.

18%



2

Water Heating

Heating your water accounts for about 18 percent of energy costs.

QUICK FIX:

Turn your water heater down to 120°F, or the lowest temperature that is still safe for your particular water source. If you have a storage hot water heater, insulating your system may also conserve energy.

COMMITMENT:

Install low-flow faucets and shower heads, or upgrade your system to one that is certified for energy efficiency. Consider your energy source and household water usage; this will determine what size and type of water heater is right for your home.

5-30%



3

Air Leakage

Drafts can account for 5 to 30 percent of your heating bill, depending on how well your home is sealed.

QUICK FIX:

Check for cracks in your home's mortar, foundation, siding, and around exterior doors and windows. Seal all cracks appropriately.

COMMITMENT:

Replace old windows, and upgrade to a steel or fiberglass door (more appropriate for colder climates). Check both your ceiling and walls to add and maintain the recommended amount of insulation.

48%



4

Heating/Cooling

Heating and cooling your home accounts for about 48 percent of energy costs.

QUICK FIX:

Replace air filters about once a month, especially during peak season, and service HVAC systems on a regular basis.

COMMITMENT:

Upgrade your heating and cooling systems to those that have energy efficient certifications. Or plant trees to shade your central A/C unit and east and west facing windows. Also, install a programmable thermostat to better regulate heat during the time you're home and while you're regularly out of the house.

If you are still concerned after conducting your DIY energy audit, consider contacting a professional for a more thorough inspection.