

GREEN SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE YOUR LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND REDUCE YOUR UTILITY BILLS

A Guide for Renters

Reduce Noise Pollution

Number one complaint

1. Insulated Window Coverings
2. Caulking
3. Homosote Panels

Install Insulated Window Coverings

- ▣ Insulate sound from outdoors
- ▣ Improve indoor acoustics (removes echo)
- ▣ Increases privacy
- ▣ Improves energy usage by blocking radiant heat, recommended for our hot and humid climate. Reduce heating and cooling costs up to 40%
- ▣ Aesthetically pleasing and adds comfort to your home
- ▣ Affordable way to decorate (i.e. Drapes, shades, and blinds)
- ▣ Small investment and you can take it with you

Caulking

- ▣ Reduces heating and cooling energy loss
- ▣ Provides sound insulation
- ▣ Prevents windows from rattling (glazing may be needed)
- ▣ Keeps insects out
- ▣ Small investment (\$3/tube; \$6 caulking gun)
- ▣ Keeps moisture out

Use Homosote Panels

- ▣ Affordable sound insulator
- ▣ Lightweight and easy to work with, cuts with utility knife
- ▣ Manufactured using a very eco-friendly process. Made from recycled newspapers
- ▣ Doubles as a memo board
- ▣ Can be decorated easily (painted or covered with cloth)
- ▣ Retail for \$32 per 4' x 8' panel



Conserve Energy

1. Use CFL Bulbs
2. Use Receptacle Insulators
3. Reduce hot water usage
4. Choose Energy Star rated appliances and products
5. Use a smart strip
6. Reduce heating and cooling consumption

Use CFL Bulbs(compact fluorescent light)

- ▣ Uses about 75% less energy than standard lighting.
- ▣ Produces 75% less heat, thereby reducing cooling costs.
- ▣ Lasts about 6 to 12 times longer than standard bulbs.
- ▣ Buying energy star rated CFLs can will save you about \$30 or more in electricity costs over each bulbs lifetime.
- ▣ Buy energy star rated table and floor lamps for further savings.
- ▣ Please remember to recycle properly since they do contain some mercury. Many retailers do offer free recycling

Use Receptacle Insulators

- ▣ Install easily behind switch and plug cover plates.
- ▣ Very economical.
- ▣ Reduces drafts in house or apartments.

Reduce Hot Water Usage

- ▣ Wash clothes in cold water and use cold water detergents.
- ▣ Use low flow shower heads.
- ▣ Repair/report leaky faucets promptly. Gallons of water can be lost in a short amount of time.
- ▣ Insulate your hot water heater. Without insulation, tank will lose and disperse heat resulting in higher energy bills.
- ▣ Use scald protector so that hot water doesn't go down the drain when it reaches high temperature.
- ▣ Set temperature at 120 degrees. This will provide comfortable hot water for most uses.

Choose Energy Star Rated Appliances and Electronics

- ▣ Energy star rated items are more efficient and reduce energy bills.
- ▣ Several items are available; ie computers, printers, scanners, fax machines, monitors, televisions, VCR and DVD players, home audio and cordless phones.
- ▣ Check out [www.energystar .gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

Use Smart Strips

- ▣ Avoid losing phantom power. Phantom power is power that is wasted while electronics are not being used.
- ▣ Save on cooling costs. Items that are plugged in are conducting heat and increasing your cooling bills.
- ▣ Each year, Americans spend more money to power home audio and DVD products when turned off than when actually in use.
- ▣ By 2015, consumer electronics and small appliances will be responsible for almost 30% of all household electricity use.

Heating and Cooling

- ▣ Using programmable thermostats can save you up to 30% on your energy bills. Retails between \$30-\$50 .
- ▣ Change filters often.
- ▣ Use fans instead of keeping thermostat low. Circulating air will help you feel cooler and cut costs significantly.
- ▣ Avoid turning air conditioning to low temperature to cool quicker. It doesn't cool any faster and could waste energy.
- ▣ Close blinds when you are out to reflect heat in warmer months.
- ▣ Layer clothing in colder months instead of turning up heat.
- ▣ Install window units under shaded area or on north side of dwelling whenever possible.



Conserve Water

1. **Low flow shower heads**
2. **Scald protectors**
3. **Daily conservation tips.**

Use Low Flow Shower Heads

- ▣ Look for low flow shower heads that use less than 2.5 gallons of water per minute.
- ▣ Low cost, some start as low as \$11 and use only 1 to .5 gallons of water per minute.

Use Scald Protectors

- ▣ Scald protectors are easily installed. Typically you unscrew your shower head, install protector, reinstall shower head.
- ▣ Retails for under \$20.
- ▣ Protects you from being burnt with hot water.
- ▣ Some shower heads are available with scald protector.
- ▣ Works by shutting of hot water flow when temperature exceeds safe temperature.
- ▣ Unattended shower will shut off when water is hot. Keeps hot water from going down the drain, aka money down the drain. . .

Daily Conservation Tips

- ▣ Don't run water while brushing teeth . Why use two gallons of water when a cup will do?
- ▣ If you rent a house, water lawns at optimal time. You can train lawns to be watered once weekly. It makes for a healthier lawn with deep roots.
- ▣ Sweep porches and driveways instead of hosing them down with water. This can save several gallons of water.