

# Energy-Saving Tips for Renters

This playbook provides renters with a series of actionable steps designed to help them save energy and reduce their utility bills. These tips are specifically tailored for individuals who do not have the option to make permanent changes to their property.

## Step 1: **Insulation**

Enhance your windows' insulation by using heavy curtains or installing temporary window insulation film to keep heat in during winter and out during summer.

## Step 2: **Power Strips**

Use power strips for your electronics and turn them off when not in use to avoid 'vampire' energy loss from devices that consume power while plugged in, even if they are switched off.

## Step 3: **LED Bulbs**

Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient LED bulbs, which use less electricity and have a longer lifespan.

## Step 4: **Thermostat**

Use a programmable thermostat if possible, or manually adjust your thermostat to lower settings when you are away or asleep to save on heating and cooling costs.

## Step 5: **Seal Gaps**

Use draft stoppers or weather stripping to seal gaps under doors and around windows to prevent air leaks, maintaining temperature control more efficiently.

## Step 6: **Energy Star**

When purchasing new appliances or electronics, opt for Energy Star certified products that are more energy-efficient.

## Step 7: **Water Usage**

Reduce water usage by taking shorter showers, fixing leaky faucets, and using cold water for laundry when possible.

## Step 8: **Unplug**

Unplug chargers and other electronics when not in use to prevent unnecessary energy consumption.

## Step 9: **Natural Light**

Utilize natural light as much as possible during the day to reduce the need for artificial lighting.

## Step 10: **Vent Maintenance**

Regularly clean vents and replace HVAC filters to ensure your heating and cooling systems are operating efficiently.

## Step 11: **Smart Usage**

Be mindful of peak energy usage times and try to use appliances like washers, dryers, and dishwashers during off-peak hours.

## **General Notes**

### **Discuss with Landlord**

Before implementing any changes, discuss them with your landlord to ensure compliance with your lease and to see if they would be willing to split the cost or reimburse you for energy-saving upgrades.

### **Assessment**

Consider requesting or conducting an energy audit to identify specific issues in your rental that could be improved to save energy.

### **Community Programs**

Look into local community programs or incentives for renters regarding energy savings; some utilities offer free or discounted energy-saving products.