

## Energy-saving tips for the holidays

Written by

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The holiday season is here! In addition to replacing traditional incandescent decorative lights with high-efficient ENERGY STAR® qualified LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs, there are many other ways to practice energy conservation during the holidays:

- **Buy energy-efficient gifts**, such as ENERGY STAR TVs, refrigerators and computers that are environmentally friendly and will save energy for many years. Search the Internet for "eco-friendly gift," "energy-efficient gift," or "solar-powered gift" ideas.
- **Consider recyclable gift wrap** options, such as newspaper and magazine pages. And be sure to recycle your gift wrap.
- **Turn down your thermostat** if you're going to be away from home for an extended period of time; install a programmable thermostat to control the heating and cooling of your home year-round.
- **Entertain efficiently.** When guests arrive, turn down your thermostat, because the combination of the stove, hot food, and warm bodies will help keep your house comfortable.
- **Carpool** to grandma and grandpa's house for holiday celebrations.
- **Close your fireplace damper** when a fire is not in use and install airtight doors to prevent warm air from escaping.

For more energy-saving holiday tips, visit the U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Saver website. For more information on energy efficiency and energy conservation, visit the Division of Energy Resources website and check out two consumer energy guides: "Home Envelope" and "Appliances, Lighting, Electronics."