



ENERGY EFFICIENCY RENTERS' GUIDE

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Energy Efficiency Tips for Renters

If you rent, you may not be able to make major changes in your home. However, there are a few renter-friendly actions you can take to save energy, save money, and make your home more comfortable.



Lighting:

- Replace CFL or incandescent bulbs with LEDs.



Windows & Doors:

- Check your windows and doors for any air leaks - if you see any light coming in or feel any air coming in through the edges of your windows and doors, install weatherstripping.
- Add window film to your windows and/or glass doors, especially those that receive direct light. This will reduce the solar heat gain and protect against glare and ultraviolet exposure.



Laundry:

- Use your dryer's moisture sensor option
- Clean the dryer's lint trap regularly
- Wash laundry with cold water and air-dry when possible
- Run full loads of laundry - try not to overfill or underfill



Appliances:

- Unplug electronics and appliances when they are not in use. Even if turned off, items that are plugged in will still use energy, costing the average U.S. home \$300 annually. Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when you are done using equipment (computers, TVs, kitchen appliances, etc), or consider using a smart power strip with built-in timers, motion sensors, or other automatic shut-off features.
- Set your refrigerator temperature to 35-38 degrees and your freezer to 0 degrees.
- Clean the condenser coils on the back of the refrigerator once a year. When they get dusty, your refrigerator has to use more energy to keep cool.
- Take a look at your dishwasher for any "eco", "green", or "water-saving" settings, and make sure they are on.
- Adjust the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees, or the "medium" setting.
- Insulate the water heater tank using a thermal blanket.



Water:

- Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads. You can request a free kit from SoCalGas.

How to talk to your landlord about energy efficient upgrades



As a renter, you may want to make some more major upgrades to your home to save energy and money. While this benefits both you and your landlord, it may be hard to convince a landlord to pursue such changes. Check out the tips below to learn how to start talking about energy efficiency with your landlord.

- Discuss energy efficiency opportunities before you even sign your lease. The lease negotiation period is a great opportunity to get upgrades in writing, so use this time to talk about what upgrades would be a good fit for the space.
- Ask for the building's power bill summary in advance, to better understand how much energy the building is using, to help make your case.
- Present the benefits of energy efficient upgrades to your landlord:
 - Energy efficiency is an investment that can yield higher profits
 - Longer term, happier tenants due to fewer repairs and lower bills.
 - If you would be willing to extend or renew your lease with the addition of energy efficiency upgrades, tell your landlord as this could be another benefit.
- If appropriate, discuss sharing the costs of upgrades with your landlord. Consider your lease agreement, if already signed.
- Do your research before approaching your landlord. Know the cost of the upgrades you are interested in, and refer to any rebates or incentives that would lower costs.
- Keep all communication polite and professional. Make sure to get any agreements in writing.