

DIY Home Energy Audit Checklist

Heating & Cooling System			
How often do you change your air filter?		Change at least every 3 months or more often based on manufacturers recommendations.	
How often do you have an HVAC Tune-up?		Schedule a tune-up twice annually, in spring and fall. Most HVAC companies will perform this for \$69-\$79.	
Do you have any leaks in your duct work?		Seal leaks using specialty duct tape. If you find mold or wet duct work, contact your HVAC professional.	
How old is your HVAC system?		Modern HVAC systems are more efficient. The typical lifespan of an HVAC unit is 15-20 years.	
Air Leaks			
Do you have air leaks in any of the following areas?			
Windows		Use the dollar bill test to check the window seal.	
Doors		Use the dollar bill test to check the window seal.	
Light switches and electrical outlets		Feel for leaks using your hand or a blown out match.	
Pipe & natural gas line penetration		Perform a visual inspection.	
Recessed lights		Feel for leaks using your hand or a blown out match.	
Fireplace/chimney		Feel for leaks using your hand or a blown out match.	
Ventilation			
Is your bathroom exhaust fan clean?		Make sure the exhaust fan isn't blocked with lint.	
Is your kitchen exhaust fan clean?		Make sure the exhaust fan isn't blocked with grease.	
Is your dryer vent and exhaust pipe clean?		A clogged dryer vent can be a fire hazard, and makes your dryer less efficient. You can purchase a dryer vent cleaning kit at your local hardware store.	
Do you have soffit vents around your roofline?		Your soffit vents around the roofline should be covered in screening to keep out any animals. Check these regularly and repair as needed.	
Do you have moisture, rot spots or humidity in your attic?		If you have moisture in your attic, it's not ventilated properly. Check to ensure that your soffit vents (around the edge of the roofline) aren't blocked with insulation. Make sure you have roof vents.	
Insulation			
	<u>Current Type and Thickness</u>	<u>Calculate R-Value of Current Insulation</u>	<u>Proper R-Value Insulation by Region of Country</u>
Attic floor			
Attic access door			
Walls (check multiple locations)			
Basement Ceiling			
Electronics			
Do you use power strips for your entertainment center?		Use a power strip to shut everything off at once. Unplug chargers when not in use.	
Do you use power strips for your computer, monitor, printer?			
Do you unplug chargers when not in use?			
Lighting			
Do you have LED bulbs in all indoor lights?		LED bulbs use a fraction of the energy that traditional bulbs use. Plus they last a lot longer!	
Do you have LED bulbs in all outdoor lights?			
Do you use motion sensors or timers on your outside lights?			

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Appliances			
<p>You can calculate the energy usage for each appliance using the wattage information on the back of the appliance. Once you calculate your appliance usage, shop online to find a similar size Energy Star unit and compare.</p>		<p>Example: Refrigerator Number of Watts: 300 watts Hours used per day: 24 hours Watt-hours per day = 300 watts X 24 hours = 7,200 watt-hours Kilowatt hours per day = 7,200 watt-hours / 1000 = 7.2 kWh/day Kilowatt hours (kWh) per month = 7.2 kWh/day * 30 days = 216 kWh monthly</p>	
		<u>Monthly kWh Used</u>	<u>Monthly kWh for an Energy Star Appliance</u>
Refrigerator			
Dishwasher			
Washing Machine			
Dryer (if electric)			
Television			
Cooktop/Oven (if electric)			
Habits			
How do you regulate the temperature at home?		A programmable thermostat can save up to 22% on the heating and cooling portion of your bill.	
When I am at home in winter, my living room temperature is 75° F or more.		The recommended temperature in the winter is 68° F. Put on a sweater!	
When I am at home in summer, my living room temperature is 70° or less.		The recommended temperature in the summer is 75° F. Use ceiling fans to stay cool.	
Do you have a second fridge/freezer in your garage?		These are typically an older, less efficient unit. It will work even harder in a hot garage.	
Do you have a pool?		Consider a free nights electricity plan and set your pool filter to run at night.	
Do you clean your refrigerator coils once a year?		Lint builds up on coils, makes the engine works hard thus utilizing more energy.	
Do you wash your clothes in cold water?		Most of the energy used in washing clothes comes from heating the water.	
Do you only run your dishwasher and washer when they are fully loaded?		Make the most of each load!	
Do you air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle?		Dishwashers use 80 percent of their energy to generate heat.	
Have you planted trees or shrubs that provide shade to your house?		Plants that provide shade can cool down your home by 3-6 degrees. Watch for Arbor Day tree give-aways.	

Want more ways to reduce your energy costs? Check out these articles!

[12 Ways to Reduce Electricity Costs \(2019 Update\)](#)

[9 Tips to Beat High Summer Electric Bills](#)

[6 Tips for Raising Energy-Smart Kids](#)

[More info here: What is a Kilowatt Hour and What Can It Power?](#)