

# Your Energy Efficient Home Checklist



A simple checklist to discover where your home is wasting energy and money.

## 🔶 Lighting

## $\hfill\square$ Check room by room

See if your light bulbs are energy-efficient LEDs. Don't forget to check your outdoor lighting, closets, under your range hood, and other less-obvious locations

## □ Consider smart bulbs to save

Making the switch to ENERGY STAR® smart bulbs in high-use areas like the kitchen can save up to 27% on energy use. Smart bulbs allow you to control usage through your phone, speaker, or other smart device. If you already have LEDs, you can connect your lamps with a smart plug for the same effect.

## ☑ Smart tip

Efficiency Vermont partners with ENERGY STAR® lighting retailers across Vermont. Find a store near you at efficiencyvermont.com/LED

## Appliances & electronics

## □ Look for the ENERGY STAR logo

Are your appliances and home electronics energy efficient? Look for the ENERGY STAR logo, or look appliance model numbers up online if you're uncertain.

## □ Assess your major appliances

Make a list of your appliances with the ages of each appliances. Any major appliances over 10 years old might need replacing. Prioritize the oldest appliances for replacement. You can recycle select older appliances for a \$50 rebates at:

efficiencyvermont.com/rebates/list/appliance-recycling

## □ Set it and forget it

If you have a programmable thermostat check that it is set properly for your home needs. Standard programmable thermostats save energy only if they are programmed correctly. If you're ready to upgrade to a smart thermostat check the compatibility on our website.

## $\hfill\square$ Power down

Look for places where you can plug electronics and devices into an Advanced Powerstrip (APS). An APS saves electricity when used with home entertainment systems, home offices, and other places where electronics are operated as a group. You can save as much as \$100 per year by avoiding standby load for game consoles alone.

## ☑ Smart tip

If you're ready to upgrade, Efficiency Vermont offers cash back on efficient dehumidifiers, clothes dryers, smart thermostats, APS, and more. Visit Learn more at: efficiencyvermont.com/rebates

## 🚯 Heating & cooling equipment

## □ Check Filters

Replace or clean furnace and AC filters as needed generally once every month or two, more during periods of high use.

## □ Schedule annual inspections

As much a safety concern as an energy issue, heating and cooling equipment should be inspected annually, or as recommended by the manufacturer.

## □ Consider replacing old equipment

If you have an older unit (approx. 15 years), it is likely not efficient. Planning to upgrade before a breakdown will give you more options than emergency replacement.

## □ Consider replacing your water heater

Water heating is a home's second-highest energy cost. If your water heater is more than 10 years old consider replacing it with a new energy efficient, ENERGY STAR certified water heater now, before it fails.

## Did you know?

We can help diagnose high energy bills with a simple phone consultation. Call 888-921-5990 or visit efficiencyvermont.com/contact

## □ Determine if your air conditioner is the right size

Many people buy air-conditioners thinking it will provide better cooling. However, an oversized air conditioner is less effective and wastes energy too. If you need a new air conditioner, ENERGY STAR® Most Efficient air conditioners operate quietly and are up to 35% more efficient than a standard room air conditioner. For more info visit: efficiencyvermont.com/products-technologies/heating-co oling-ventilation/air-conditioning

## ☑ Smart tip

Efficiency Vermont can help you find installers, and offers cash back on efficient equipment, including window air conditioners, heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and wood stoves. Learn more at: efficiencyvermont.com/heating

## 😂 Air leaks & Insulation

#### Start with the obvious

Find any gap where you can feel a draft or see through to the outside. Spot an air leak by looking for cracks and dirt streaks.

#### □ Shut a door or window on a dollar bill

If you can easily pull the dollar bill out, you've likely got a window air leak that needs to be addressed. For doors, install weather strip along the top and sides, and install a door sweep along the bottom. For windows, install sash locks if they're missing. Visit efficiencyvermont.com/DIY to do this yourself and get a rebate

#### □ Look for less-obvious problem areas

Gaps are often found along the edge of flooring and at junctures of the walls and ceiling, or anywhere pipes or other hardware enters the wall. Pay attention to the attic and basement, lifting insulation to look under and behind it when needed.

 Inspect basements and attics or areas with appliances, air ducts, or plumbing for proper insulation

Finished basements should have insulation along perimeter walls; unfinished basements should have insulated ceilings and band joists. In finished attic spaces, look for ceiling and perimeter wall insulation. And in unfinished attics, check for floor insulation.

#### ☑ Smart tip

In the long term, consider air sealing and insulating your home with the help of an Efficiency Excellence Network (EEN) contractor. A professional inspection can provide conclusive results. Call Efficiency Vermont to find a Building Performance Institute certified EEN contractor to perform one or visit efficiencyvermont.com/contractor

#### Next steps:

Thanks for walking through the checklist. You've probably found a few things that can be improved, Efficiency Vermont is here to help with the next steps – whether it's finding efficient products, air sealing and insulating your home, or finding a qualified contractor. Call us at 888-921-5990 to discuss what you found and let us help you find resources.

Notes
-------