

Pull the Plug on Water Waste

You know that leaky faucet you've been meaning to fix? Well, it could be adding big bucks to your utility bill.

Just a small leak can add hundreds of dollars a year to your utility costs, not to mention wasting thousands of gallons of water. But fixing the leak is just one way to save money on your utility bill.



Next to heating and air conditioning, water heating is the biggest energy consumer in your home. Taking a few minutes to maximize your water heater's effectiveness can put money back in your pocket. Here are some easy-to-follow tips to keep your water heater running at peak efficiency.

- Set the water heater thermostat between 120 degrees and 140 degrees, or medium on a gas heater. This temperature should provide plenty of comfortable water for most household tasks.
- Draining a quart of water from your water heater every three months will remove sediment that can build up and reduce its efficiency.
- Feel the pipes leading from your water heater. If they feel warm to the touch, you could be losing heat. Wrap the pipes in pipe insulation. Be careful not to get the insulation within four inches of the top of the water heater.
- Installing low-flow shower heads or faucet aerators can reduce the amount of water you use without reducing water pressure. They are inexpensive and easy to install.



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