ENERGY
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS

LANE COUNTY OREGON

Tips for Conserving Hot Water

Water heaters are the second largest energy users in most homes – only space heating systems use more. As a result, water heating may represent a large portion of your utility bill. Below are some tips to save energy, and money, on water heating.

At Your Water Heater

- Set the upper and lower water heater thermostats to 120°F. This simple action can save you money all year long and reduce the risk of burns from tap water.
- Wrap your water pipes with insulation. Closed-cell, flexible foam tubes and fiberglass batts are available at most hardware and home improvement stores.
- Turn off the electricity to the water heater at the main fuse box if you will be gone for three days or more. It only takes a few hours to re-heat.

In the Kitchen and Bathrooms

- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. Both are available from local hardware and home improvement centers.
- Fix leaky faucets and showerheads promptly. Hot water leaks consume energy, so make these repairs a priority.
- Take quick showers instead of baths.
- Turn off the water while shaving, brushing teeth, etc.
- Do household cleaning with cold water, if possible.
- When washing dishes, fill the sink and plug it with a stopper instead of letting the water run constantly.
- Make sure the dishwasher is full before you turn it on. It uses the same amount of water whether it has a full load of dishes or just a few items.

In the Laundry Room

- Whenever possible, wash only full loads of laundry. If you can select the water level on your washer, use the lowest practical level.
- Use cool water when washing clothes. You can use cold-water detergents for most, if not all, of your laundry. If you must wash clothes in warm or hot water, rinse them in cold water.
- Use the pre-soak cycle for heavily soiled loads to avoid two washings.
- If you're shopping for a new clothes washer or dishwasher, consider ENERGY STAR® qualifying energy-efficient models. They use 10-50 percent less energy and water than standard models.