**Lighting**
- Turn off lights when you leave a room or when they’re not needed.
- Always use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) or light-emitting diode bulbs (LEDs) for your lighting needs.

**Appliances & Electronics**
- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when shopping for a variety of electronics and appliances, such as light bulbs, dehumidifiers, ceiling fans, TVs, DVD players/recorders, home stereo equipment, cordless phones, ovens and ranges, dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers, refrigerators and freezers. The ENERGY STAR label lets you know the product is one of the more efficient ones on the market. They will save you money everyday!

**Washer & Dryer**
- Wash clothes in cold or warm water rather than hot, and rinse in cold water. The temperature of the rinse water has no effect on cleaning. Also, put heavy loads (such as towels or blankets) through the spin cycle twice, if your machine allows you to do this. This will remove more of the water and make the drying time shorter.
- Always fill the washer and dryer to capacity whenever possible. If you must wash smaller loads of laundry, use the proper water level for each individual load.
- When you use a dryer, be sure to clean the lint filter after each load.

**Dishwasher**
- Be sure that the dishwasher is full but not overloaded. Use the shortest wash cycle that will clean your dishes properly. Be sure to use the recommended amount of detergent.
- Turn off the drying cycle on your dishwasher: open the door and let the dishwasher and silverware air dry.
- When hand washing dishes, fill the sink with water and use a stopper. Fill a large pot rather than wash or rinse dishes under running hot water.

**Oven & Range**
- Put a lid on a pot to boil water. The water boils faster and you’ll use less energy.
- Prepare meals in a slow cooker, electric frying pan or toaster oven, or microwave when you can.
- Allow frozen meats to thaw in the refrigerator completely before cooking.

**Refrigerator & Freezer**
- The recommended temperature for your refrigerator is between 38°F to 40°F. Don’t over cool!

**Heating & Cooling**
- During the hot summer months, close insulated drapes or shades to keep out unwanted heat and sun. In the winter, open the drapes and shades to let the heat from the sun in! On cloudy days, close drapes and shades to cut down on heat loss.
- Close heating vents and radiator valves in unused areas. Make sure that drapes and furniture do not block registers for supply or return air.
- Keep doors and windows closed as much as possible. This includes closet doors and rooms not in use.
- Use fans whenever possible, in place of air conditioners.
- Keep outside heating exhaust vents clear of snow.
- Have your furnace/boiler checked and cleaned annually.
- Change heating system filters regularly.

**Water**
- Save water costs by turning off the tap when you shave, wash, or brush your teeth.
- Many hot water heaters are factory set for 140°F which is a lot higher than you need. Reset it to 120°F.
- Take showers instead of baths. A three-minute shower uses about half the water of a bath and reduces your hot water heating needs.
I want to buy a light bulb but there are so many choices

Shopping for a new bulb may be a bit confusing at first. Use this information as a guide to make the right choices for your family and home.

How do I know I am buying a quality bulb?

Products earning the ENERGY STAR® label have met energy consumption and performance standards measured and verified with independent testing. The EPA establishes the specifications and guidelines for the testing. ENERGY STAR® certified products include consumer electronics, appliances, heating and cooling equipment, water heaters, and building products. Look for the ENERGY STAR label on the products you are considering.

What does the information on the light bulb package mean?

- **Energy Use**: How much energy the bulb uses per hour. Lower numbers mean the bulb uses less energy.
- **Life**: How long the bulb will last. Longer life bulbs save you the hassle of frequent bulb changes.
- **Light Output**: How bright the light is. Higher numbers mean the light is whiter or bluer.
- **Minimum Light Output**: The minimum amount of light the bulb will produce.
- **Energy STAR® Qualified Bulbs**: Bulbs that meet energy consumption and performance standards.

How to Choose the right ENERGY STAR® Certified Bulbs

- **Light Bulb**: The type of bulb you want to use.
- **Table/Floor Lamps**: The type of fixture you want to use.
- **Pendant Fixtures**: The type of fixture you want to use.
- **Ceiling Fixtures**: The type of fixture you want to use.
- **Ceiling Fans**: The type of fixture you want to use.
- **Wall Sconces**: The type of fixture you want to use.
- **Recessed Cans**: The type of fixture you want to use.
- **Track Lighting**: The type of fixture you want to use.
- **Outdoor Covered**: The type of fixture you want to use.
- **Outdoor Flood**: The type of fixture you want to use.

Choosing the right color

- **Warm White**: Indoors and in places where you need a soft, warm light. Use in bedrooms, bathrooms, and workspaces.
- **Cool White**: Indoors and outdoors where you need a bright, white light. Use in kitchens and outdoor areas.
- **Soft White**: Indoors and in places where you need a soft, warm light. Use in bedrooms, bathrooms, and workspaces.
- **Natural White**: Indoors and outdoors where you need a bright, white light. Use in kitchens and outdoor areas.
- **Natural or Daylight**: Indoors and outdoors where you need a bright, white light. Use in kitchens and outdoor areas.

How to calculate the yearly energy costs:

1. **Energy used (watts)**: Multiply the number of watts by the number of hours used per day.
2. **Cost of electricity (kWh)**: Multiply the energy used (watts) by the number of hours used per day.
3. **Cost per kWh**: Divide the cost of electricity (kWh) by the number of kWh used per day.
4. **Yearly energy cost**: Multiply the cost per kWh by the number of kWh used per year.

**Estimated yearly energy cost** = (Energy used x Cost per kWh) / 1000

**Estimated cost savings** = (Energy used x Cost per kWh) / 1000

For more information on buying energy efficient light bulbs, visit energystar.gov.