

# Conserving energy is not expensive

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washing machine can have a major impact on utility bills. It takes 35 gallons of water to do a full wash and rinse, or 17 gallons for each cycle.

How much of that water is hot depends on which button you push. A hot wash and warm rinse combination, the highest setting on most machines, requires 25 gallons of hot water.

A load a day on such a setting, for electric water heaters, could easily cost \$100 a

year. Changing the rinse water to cold, which experts say does not affect the results of the wash, will save eight of those gallons per day or \$25 a year.

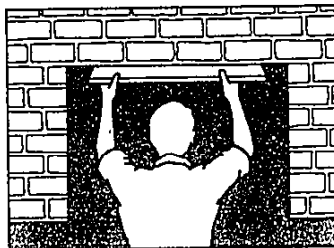
By changing the wash setting from hot to warm, you could save another \$25. If you have a gas water heater, the savings would be \$10 a year for each strategy.

To increase the savings even further, use a cold water detergent and wash and rinse with cold water. You may be well satisfied with the cleaning results.

Household heat: Forgotten places waste energy.

Even if you have insulated attics and walls and have caulked and weather-stripped around doors and windows, gaps you may have overlooked will continue to be conduits for heat loss and money loss.

Some of these gaps can be closed inexpensively for a substantial return. Here are four areas that are commonly ignored:



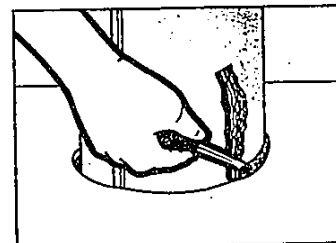
## 5. Escape up the chimney

It is not unusual to find a gap of an inch or wider in a damper when the fireplace is not in use, but the furnace is turned on. The gap can also be costly when the air conditioner is operating.

It is a bad place to have a leak because the chimney itself encourages a strong flow of air.

One way to stop the leak is to stuff the gap with insulation, or, if it is too large to insulate, to cover it with a board. The stuffing or covering obviously must be removed before the fireplace is used.

In Michigan, you can plug the damper and save \$45 a year with electric resistance heat, \$20 with gas heat and \$30 with oil heat, depending on where you set the thermostat and the size of the gap.



## 6. Holes in the attic are like holes in your pocket.

Step into your attic some winter night. Even if it is insulated at floor level, you may be surprised to find the attic is much warmer than the outside air.

That means that some of the expensive heat you need downstairs has escaped up to where it won't do you any good. Major heat leaks are found not only in uninsulated attics, but also in insulated ones where gaps and holes have been left untreated.

Such attic "bypasses" are conduits for heat to leave the house during winter and

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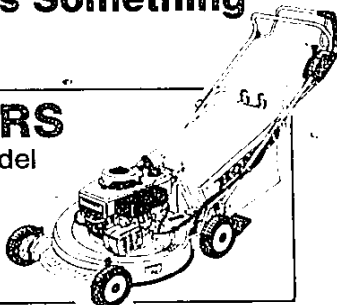
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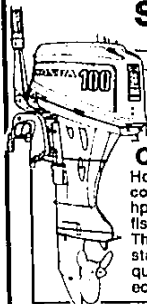
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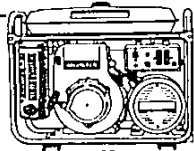


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