

Electrical

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fluorescent unit that are even more energy efficient."

BERES COMPARED the bulbs this way: a regular 60-watt light bulb costs 55 cents and burns for about 1,000 hours. A 42-watt Capsylite bulb costs about 70 cents and burns for 1,000 hours. A 42-watt Capsylite bulb costs about \$3.50 and burns for 3,500 hours. A 13-watt fluorescent bulb (suitable for covered light fixtures) costs about \$7 but burns for 10,000 hours.

"If you use the formula to figure out how much money you'll save, you'll see you are way ahead by using the fluorescent bulb. If you burn a 60-watt bulb 10 hours a day, you're spending \$21.90 for that lamp in a year. If you replace that bulb with a fluorescent, you're only spending \$4.75 a year," Beres said.

For about \$6 one can buy an adapter that changes a regular lamp to one that uses a fluorescent bulb.

Beres had these other tips:

- **Ceiling Fan** — Useful in both summer and winter for reducing energy costs. In summer, you want it blowing up to bring the cool air up towards the ceiling. In winter, have the fan blow the warm air off the ceiling. Keep the fan turning slowly so it doesn't cool the air. Ceiling fans keep the thermostat from kicking on the furnace. They help maintain a uniform level of heat.

- **Dimmer Switch** — An excellent way to save energy because every time you save watts, you save energy and money. Good to use with ceiling fans to control their speed.

- **Motion Sensor Light Switch** — Takes the place of an existing switch in a wall box. Turns light on when someone walks into a room and turns the light off when it detects no more movement in the room after a certain amount of time. Beres recommends these in rooms in which you turn on and off light switches. Ideal for outside lighting. Turns on automatically when your car pulls into the driveway.

Plumbing

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"Shower heads are designed to work on so many gallons of water per minute. If you reduce this number with a flow restricter, your shower head may not be worth using."

Leckie does recommend flow restricters on sinks throughout the house. He said they help reduce water usage from faucets. New faucets already have flow restricters.

New water heaters also are more energy efficient. They use less gas to heat the same amount of water in an hour than older ones and are better insulated.

"Most families don't realize that their hot water heater costs them between \$220 to \$250 per year to use," Leckie

said. "Any reduction they make increases gas use efficiency."

"They can space their showers so not everyone showers in the morning, for instance. They can lower the temperature of their hot water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or to warm. They can put a hot-water blanket on their heater."

"They also can wrap their water pipes particularly if they have a crawl space or live in a ranch-style house in which water pipes run along the end of the ranch to the other."

Heating

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"Also, the humidifier helps swell wood around windows to act as better insulators. It eliminates nasal congestion and electric shocks and make a home comfortable to live in."

PEOPLE NEED to be sure they are buying the right humidifier for their home. It needs to be designed for the home's square footage, Angell said. Preventive maintenance on your furnace and air conditioner also is an energy saver, he said.

"You wouldn't expect your car to run smoothly without maintenance checks. The same is true for your furnace. It should be cleaned and checked every fall, the air conditioner checked every spring. This adds about seven years to your equipment's life expectancy."

Angell warns people to beware of

telemarketers who call during the winter offering very low prices to clean your furnace.

"A good company can't do it for \$29.95. Expect to pay about \$50 for furnace cleaning. If a company condemns it, be sure to get a second opinion," he said.

Conserving

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IF YOU want to check your house's energy efficiency yourself, call Edison at 482-2983 and request fact sheet copies.

"People who use energy from Consumers Power can call the Consumer Affairs Department at 433-5890 to request more information on home energy," Kravick said. "They also can call 1-800-842-6971 for an energy audit. It's a good idea to see if your house meets minimum insulation standards that should be maintained whenever possible."

In the market for a new furnace, water heater or appliance? Kravick says remember to check how energy efficient it is before buying it.

"Manufacturers are doing certain things to make furnaces and appliances more energy efficient," he said. "They are making gas ranges, ovens and dryers with a pilotless ignition, for instance, which is less expensive and uses less energy because there isn't a continuously burning pilot light."

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