

Conservation Common Sense Around The House

Microwave ovens are great energy savers; they draw only about half the power of ovens in standard electric ranges and for a much shorter time. Or, if you are preparing small quantities of food, use a small portable electric appliance, such as a frying pan, grill or toaster/broiler. On average, these use only about one-third the electric power of an oven broiler.

Even interior decorating can influence your energy use. Lighter colors for walls, ceiling, floors and furniture reflect light and improve lighting efficiency by requiring lower lamp wattage for a given level of illumination. By placing floor, table or hanging lamps in the corner of a room, they reflect light from two wall surfaces, giving more useable light.

Did you know that "long life" light bulbs emit less light than a standard incandescent bulb of the same wattage? They should only be used where the long life feature is particularly advantageous, as in hard-to-reach places.

Next to the heating and cooling system, your hot water system is your biggest home energy user. Keep it properly maintained — including draining sediment once a year — to avoid energy waste. Consider investing in a relatively inexpensive water heater insulation kit which helps keep heat from being lost through the walls of the tank.

Conservation doesn't have to mean sacrificing your comfort and convenience. Common sense conservation habits such as these will help you control your electric bill.

If you are interested in more information on conserving electricity, contact your local electric company. America's tremendous response to the call

for energy conservation has taken the experts by surprise. Conservation efforts have been so successful that conservation is now considered the equivalent of a new source of fuel for our energy needs.

Recognizing the finite nature of today's major energy fuels, Americans have responded by developing common sense conservation habits that will help gain the time needed for the country to work out alternative sources.

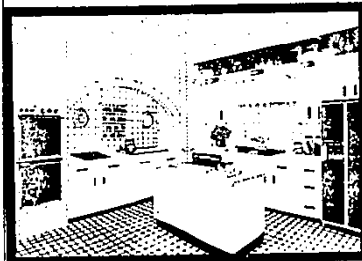
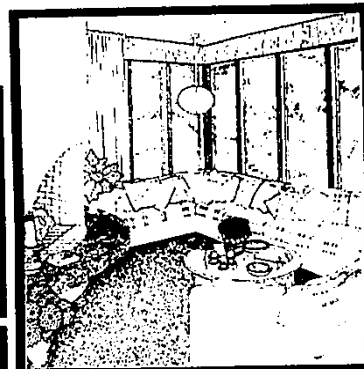
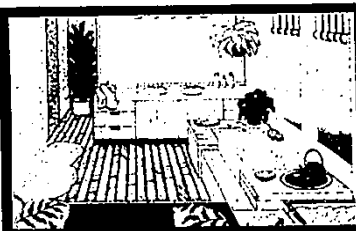
A new brochure containing practical ideas for wise energy use in the home — for heating and cooling, lighting, cooking, water heating, laundering and refrigeration — has been prepared by the Edison Electric Institute. Its title is "111 Ways to Control Your Electric Bill."

The most important single step in residential energy conservation in existing homes is the installation of thermal insulation. But even simple weatherstripping and caulking around all entrance doors and windows could account for 15 to 30 percent of home heating and cooling requirements.

Since moist air makes you feel warmer at lower temperatures, home humidifiers are a good investment for energy conservation during the heating season. The water vapors from bathing and cooking help humidify too, so use your kitchen and bath exhaust fans sparingly.

The kitchen offers a host of opportunities for conservation. For example, vacuuming the condenser coils of your refrigerator and freezer every three months to remove dust increases efficiency of operation and improves energy use in these appliances.

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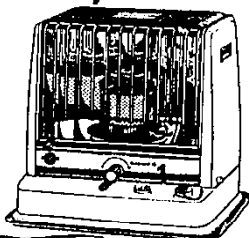
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