ENERGY SAVING TIPS
WATER HEATING

Water heating is usually the second largest energy expense in your home, after heating and cooling, accounting for about 18 percent of your utility bill. The main was to cut your water heating use is simple: use less hot water.

- **Repair leaky faucets.** Hot water leaking at a rate of 1 drip per second can waste up to 1,661 gallons of water over the course of a year, and waste up to $35 in electricity or in natural gas. Fixing drips is a cost-effective and easy way to save energy.

- **Install low-flow aerators and fixtures.** An average family can save as much as $50 to $75 per year on water and sewer bills by switching to low-flow showerheads and low-flush toilets.

- **Turn off the faucet.** To save water, be sure to turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth, shaving, or rinsing dishes by hand.

- **Wash only full loads.** Your clothes washer and dishwasher use about the same amount of water whether you wash a full load, or just one item.

- **Purchase the correct size water heater.** Consider the hot water needs of your family. If your water heater is too large, you will waste energy; if it is too small, you will likely run out of hot water.

- **Set the water thermostat to 120 degrees.** With every 10-degree reduction in water temperature, you can save 3 to 5 percent in water-heating costs.

- **Insulate your water heater.** For older electric water heaters, wrap a fiberglass blanket around the tank or install a ready-made insulation kit. Most new water heaters are already insulated, so this tip is most effective for electric water heaters that are more than five years old.

- **Insulate water pipes.** Use half-inch foam or pipe tape for insulation wherever pipes are exposed. On cold water pipes, insulate four to five feet nearest to the water heater.