

GREENSPOT TIPS FOR YOUR HOME



1. LED bulbs use less electricity and last much longer than incandescent bulbs.
2. Turn off the television when no one is watching it.
3. Inspect and clean fireplaces annually.
4. Consider more permanent materials for flooring like wood or tile or renewable materials such as cork or bamboo instead of carpet, which has to be eventually replaced and ends up in a landfill.
5. Use window blinds or curtains to block sunlight in summer and to insulate against drafts in winter.
6. When replacing any appliance, look for the Energy Star label. Refrigerators with bottom drawer freezers are more energy efficient. Defrost older models as needed to keep them running more efficiently.
7. Fix faucet drips. Run dishwasher only when you have a full load and use the shorter cycle when possible. If washing dishes by hand, turn off water when it's not being used.
8. Maintain toilets so they don't leak. Consider replacing old ones with high efficiency models.
9. Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth.
10. Replace older shower heads with high efficiency models. Sewer charges are based on water consumption, so conserving water helps lower water and sewer bills.
11. Caulk cracks around windows to seal out drafts. Replace old drafty windows with more efficient ones.
12. Ceiling fans help ventilate rooms and avoid the need for air conditioning. In the summer, direct air flow down. The reverse setting is recommended in the winter, which can help in rooms with high ceilings.
13. Put an extra blanket on beds on cold nights and set the thermostat at a lower temperature.
14. Get comfortable! Dress warmly in winter (even when indoors) and wear very light clothing in summer.
15. Turn off or unplug electronic devices not in use. Some items, such as battery chargers, continue to draw power unless unplugged.
16. If your employer allows you to work from home, doing so can save gasoline and help reduce air pollution. Use public transportation or bicycles whenever possible.
17. Look for the Energy Star label when purchasing a new washing machine.
18. Wash full loads of clothes in cold water using the shortest wash cycle. Adjust the setting to lower the water level on small loads.



19. Clean the dryer's lint filter after each load for optimal efficiency. Hang dry laundry when possible.
20. Change furnace filters once a month or buy a reusable one that can be cleaned. Have furnace inspected once a year and as problems arise. Install a programmable thermostat to adjust temperatures at night and when you won't be home.
21. Insulate water heater with a tank blanket available at hardware stores. Set the temperature no higher than necessary. At replacement time, look for Energy Star models or consider on-demand models that heat water as it is used.
22. Turn off lights when a room isn't being used.
23. Keep chimney flue closed when fireplace is not in use. Lock-top chimney caps can be installed to prevent cold air from coming down the chimney.
24. Solar energy can be captured to power a variety of objects in the home.
25. Trees can lower air conditioning costs by providing shade and also help air quality.
26. Permeable pavement allows rain water to infiltrate into the ground, reducing the amount of water rushing to our rivers during a rain fall.
27. Sweep debris off driveways instead of washing with a hose to the street or a ditch.
28. Repair vehicles so leaking fluids are not washed into storm drains that empty into a nearby stream.
29. Capture rainwater in a rain barrel to water plants and flowers during dry spells.
30. Rain gardens are an attractive way to reduce stormwater runoff and filter pollutants.
31. Prairies are a low maintenance landscape choice that reduces the amount of grass to be mowed, saving gasoline and reducing air pollution.
32. Perennial flowers and plants native to our area require less water and maintenance.
33. Remove pet waste from your yard to prevent the bacteria from getting into rivers.
34. Encourage beneficial bugs to help sustain healthy plants, such as lady bugs and bees.
35. Follow label instructions and use fertilizer, weed and pest control only when needed.
36. Pick up litter to prevent it from washing into our rivers.
37. Mow the grass only as needed and avoid mowing on ozone alert days.
38. One inch of water a week is enough to maintain a healthy and green lawn. Use rain sensors on sprinklers so they do not come on during a rain.
39. Com-Til products add organic matter to develop healthy plants and retain moisture in your garden.
40. Recommendations for attic insulation have changed over the years. Contact a professional for advice.
41. Consider trading in your gas guzzler for a more fuel-efficient car.
42. Recycle plastic, paper, glass and metal. Check out www.columbus.gov/RecyColumbus for more information.

Make your home a GreenSpot at
columbus.gov/greenspot

