

# TIPS TO LOWER UTILITY USAGE

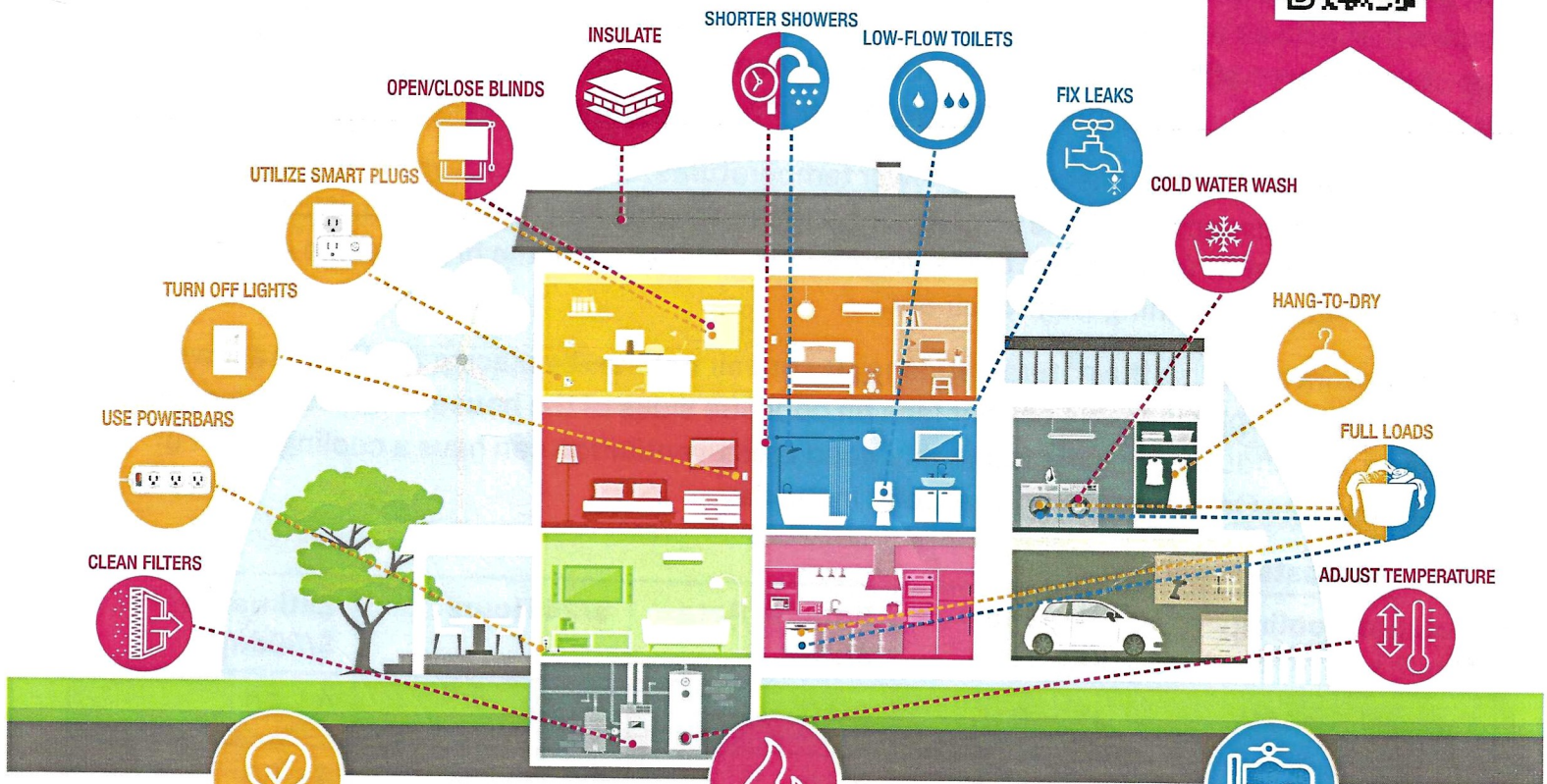
Alberta

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Smart strategies to cut down your usage.



- Unplug electronics when not in use.
- Use power bars to reduce standby electricity.
- Turn off the dishwasher's heat-dry setting; use energy-saving modes.
- Use the smallest appliance necessary for cooking.
- Conduct a home energy audit.
- Replace old appliances with energy-efficient models.
- Place portable air conditioners in frequently used rooms and turn them off when not needed.
- Use timers for plugging in cars during the winter; block heaters typically only need to be plugged in for 3 hours.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise in winter and counterclockwise in summer.

- Open blinds and curtains during the day to let in natural heat from the sun.
- Use cold water for laundry.
- Seal windows, doors, and other openings.
- Improve insulation in walls and attics.
- Check for signs of heat loss, like icicles on the roofline.
- Use a programmable thermostat.
- Space heaters may increase electricity bills.
- Close doors to unused rooms.
- Avoid blocking heating vents or radiators to ensure proper airflow.
- Replace furnace filters regularly and schedule routine furnace maintenance.

- Fix leaks as soon as possible.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Collect rainwater for watering plants.
- Watch for leaky or left-on sprinklers and use timers.
- Wait until you have full loads of laundry or dishes before running the machines.
- Invest in low-flow faucets, showerheads, and toilets.
- Fill the sink to wash dishes instead of letting the water run.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways.
- Use a watering can instead of a hose for small garden areas.

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## Tips for Cooling Your Home

About **76 %** of the sunlight that hits your windows becomes heat. Keeping your panes closed and covered during the day, especially when the sun is at its hottest, can reduce your need for a cooling aid. **Blackout treatments or blinds** might seem like the most-obvious move, but there are options that won't make you live in darkness.

**Peel and stick solar film**, for instance, can block up to **78%** of the sun's warmth from entering a dwelling. **Cellular shades**, which have accordion-like folds that form an internal honeycomb pattern that acts as an insulator, can cut unwanted solar heat by up to **60%**. Other coverings, like slat-style louvered blinds or rolling roman shades, can also help, though they're less effective. Opt for lighter colors, which are more reflective, and heavier materials whenever possible.

**Keeping air moving** doesn't necessarily lower temperatures, but it does create a chilling sensation as it helps sweat evaporate off the skin—your body's natural cooling mechanism. If it's decent enough to have the windows open, cross-ventilation can let you feel the breeze while also pulling cooler air inside and pushing warmer air out.

For this to work best, use the natural tendency for hot air to rise—by placing the inlet at a lower level than the outlet. By placing table or floor fans on opposite sides of the house to initiate some moving air. One study conducted in India found that good cross-ventilation can have a cooling effect of around 6 degrees Celsius at the hottest point in the day.

### Estimated Costs

Average Cooling Device	Watts to Kilowatts	Retailer Rate \$/kwh	\$/24 Hours	Estimated \$/30days
Personal Fan 15 W	15 = .015	\$.10	\$0.04	\$1.20
Tabletop 30-60W	60 = .060	\$.10	\$0.15	\$4.50
Box or Ceiling Fan 70-90 W	90 = .090	\$.10	\$0.22	\$6.60
Window AC 200-1400W	1400 = 1.4	\$.10	\$3.36	\$100.80
Portable AC 700-1500 W	1500 = 1.5	\$.10	\$3.60	\$108.00
Central AC 3000-5000W	5000 = 5	\$.10	\$12.00	\$360.00

### Basic Calculation

1000 Watts = 1 Kilowatt

1 Kilowatts x 24 hours = 24 kWh

24 kWh x \$.10/hour\* = \$2.40/day

\$2.4/day x 30 day = \$72.00/month

\*Electric Retailer rate will vary.

Does not include ATCO charges or taxes.

Information only.

Contact your electric retailer or appliance manufacturer for specific details.

