

Month-to-month savings

Use this home maintenance calendar to cut energy costs throughout the year.

JANUARY

- Review life expectancy of kitchen and laundry appliances, and consider replacing old appliances with ENERGY STAR® appliances.
- Raise or open blinds to allow in the sunlight's natural warmth. Lower or close them at night.
- Seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors to keep cool air outdoors.

FEBRUARY

- Install compact fluorescent light bulbs in outdoor fixtures to save on energy bills.
- Check the thermostat on your water heater and set it to 120 degrees, unless directed otherwise by the owner's manual.

MARCH

- Seal cracks and leaks in the basement to inhibit mold and mildew caused by moisture.
- Check the attic and crawl space to ensure proper and adequate insulation.

APRIL

- Set ceiling fans to run counter clockwise to help cool rooms.
- Ensure air-conditioning vents are open to full capacity and unobstructed.
- Have air-conditioning unit serviced so it will be working efficiently when needed.

MAY

- Put up awnings or other shading devices to prevent heat from entering sun-facing windows.
- Inspect caulking around sinks, showers, tubs, and toilets, and replace if needed.
- Have duct system inspected and repaired if necessary.

JUNE

- Clean range-hood grease filter to ensure proper ventilation.
- Clean refrigerator and defrost freezer to prepare for storing summer produce.
- Vacuum refrigerator condenser coils to improve efficiency.

JULY

- Seal gaps in floors, doors, and windows to save up to 10% on your energy bill and prevent moisture issues and drafts.
- Ensure outdoor unit for air conditioner is free of leaves and other debris.
- Close drapes during the day, and consider applying window film to minimize heat from the sun.

AUGUST

- Check the weather stripping around your garage door and replace if needed.
- Replace standard interior light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, which produce less heat.

SEPTEMBER

- Inspect your heating system and check thermostats for accuracy. Replace them with programmable thermostats if they're not working properly.
- Add more insulation to attics, crawl spaces, and basements if needed.

OCTOBER

- Inspect water heater and drain tank to remove sediment if necessary. Remember to turn off the power to the water heater first.
- Check the insulating blanket and pipe wrap on the water heater for wear, or add both if not already in use.

NOVEMBER

- Set your ceiling fans to run clockwise, which causes the warm air near the ceiling to be redistributed to lower parts of the room.
- Test refrigerator door seals by closing the door over a dollar bill; if it is easily removed, repair or replace the seal.

DECEMBER

- Check all electrical cords and plugs for damage or fraying, and repair if needed.
- Vacuum refrigerator condenser coils to improve efficiency.
- Perform an online Energy Check Up at AlabamaPower.com/EnergyCheckUp.

Things to do every month:

- ✓ Clean or change air-conditioning filters.
- ✓ Clean the clothes dryer and vent to prevent lint buildup.
- ✓ Clean for and identify "energy vampires" in your home—electronics, power strips, and the like that are left on when not in use.
- ✓ Review your energy bill to see how your actions are helping to reduce costs.

FOR MORE ENERGY-SAVING TIPS:



1.800.245.2244



AlabamaPower.com/tips



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