



Empty Home Energy Checklist

Some members go away and are expecting a smaller energy bill on their return, only to find the bill was pretty much the same as when they're home.

A home's electrical devices are consuming energy all the time, whether the house is occupied or not. This is why it's important to take the proper steps to prepare a home to be empty when it won't be used for a long period of time. These are a few steps you can take to reduce energy bills while you're away.

Decide which actions from the list below apply to our home and are worth the effort and disruption, depending on how long you plan to be away. Place a check marker under "TO DO" for those that you'll do, and then put a check mark beside each once it's done. When you come back home, you can easily see the items you need to put back to normal and check them off as you do them.

	TO DO	DONE	BACK TO NORMAL
HEATER/THERMOSTAT ~ 40% of a home's energy usage			
Turn all thermostats down to 50 °F to 55 °F			
Unplug all unattended space heaters			
Unplug electric blankets			
WATER HEATER ~25% of a home's energy usage			
Fix leaky taps and pipes			
Adjust the water heater thermostat to 120 °F (always)			
Turn off the water heater at the electrical panel			
REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER			
Defrost and unplug refrigerator/freezer and prop open door			
OR, adjust refrigerator thermostat to a warmer temperature and place plastic gallon jugs of water in refrigerator			
ELECTRONICS			
Unplug all small electronic devices (e.g., clocks, humidifiers)			
Unplug all TVs, entertainment electronics, and computers			
Unplug all power adapters and charging devices			
Unplug microwave, coffee maker, and other appliances w/clocks			



LIGHTS			
Install timers or day/night sensors on indoor & outdoor security lights			
Unplug all night lights			
WINDOW COVERINGS			
Close all curtains and drapes for insulation and security			
OTHER HOME ELECTRONICS			
Unplug hot tub heater and drain/winterize hot tub			
Unplug air conditioners if not needed for humidity control			
Unplug landscaping water features if not needed for aquatic life			
Other:			
Other:			