



# YOUR MANUFACTURED HOME



You can take steps before and after you buy your manufactured home that will increase energy efficiency and save you money. Keep in mind that spending more up front can save you money in the long run.

## 7 WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY IN YOUR MANUFACTURED HOME:

### 1. Look for the Energy Star® logo

- When shopping for a manufactured home, look for companies that build Energy Star® labeled homes. An Energy Star® labeled home is at least 30% more energy efficient than a comparable home built to the 1993 Model Energy Code.
- **Look for Energy Star® labeled heating and cooling systems when buying a new home or when upgrading the systems.**
- When shopping for appliances or electronics such as refrigerators, microwaves, TVs, and computers, look for the Energy Star® logo. They might cost more at first, but long-term savings on utility bills usually make them a worthwhile investment.

### 2. Manage your home's exposure to the sun

- If possible, align the home so that the long side having the most window coverage faces south. When used with awnings, this configuration will minimize your home's exposure to the hot summer sun while providing warming sunlight in winter.
- During the summer, use shades, blinds, or curtains on windows during the day to keep the sun's rays from heating your home.
- During the winter, keep window shades, blinds, or curtains open during the day to let in sunlight, and close them in the evening to retain heat.
- Consider planting deciduous trees to shade the east and west sides of your home during summer while permitting sunlight to warm your home in winter.

### 3. Adjust the thermostat

- In summer, set the thermostat as high 78°F, if comfortable. Consider supplementing air conditioning with high efficiency fans, which will enable you to be comfortable at higher temperatures. Turn off fans when you leave the room.
- In winter, keep the thermostat set around 68°F while at home during the day and three degrees lower at night.
- For heating and cooling systems other than heat pumps, if you will be away from home for an hour or more, set the temperature even higher in summer and lower in winter. It will not take long to heat or cool your home back to your target temperature, and less energy is used in reheating and recooling than in maintaining a constant temperature.
- **Install a programmable thermostat.** A programmable thermostat will allow you to schedule different temperatures at different times of the day, giving you greater control over energy usage.



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#### 4. Help your heating and air conditioning equipment do its work efficiently

- It is crucial that ducts are sealed and insulated properly (especially if they are in an unconditioned space such as the floor cavity or crawl space). Consult an HVAC professional to test and repair ductwork if necessary.
- Make sure the doors and windows of your home are properly sealed. Weather stripping and caulking cracks and holes are inexpensive ways to weatherize your home.
- Replace the furnace air filter at least every three months with a 1-inch, electrostatically enhanced panel filter, which is inexpensive and can effectively trap large airborne particles such as pollen and dust. Some units, such as packaged systems, may also have a separate air filter for the air conditioner located in the "return-air" register. Room air conditioner filters are normally located behind the front panel.
- Keep the bottom board (the protective sheathing on the underside of your home, also known as the belly board) protected and in good repair. Consider installing protective skirting around the perimeter of your home to keep out animals that could damage the bottom board. Protecting the bottom board helps prevent moisture problems in the flooring and keeps your house properly insulated.

#### 5. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps

Use Energy Star® qualified lighting such as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) instead of regular incandescent light bulbs in the light fixtures you use most often. While CFLs cost more than regular incandescent bulbs, they are becoming increasingly affordable and they last substantially longer, consume much less energy, and produce less heat for the same amount of light. Over the life of the compact fluorescent lamp, you save money not only on reduced electricity consumption but also on cooling costs from the reduced load on your air conditioner.

*Compact fluorescent lamps contain small amounts of mercury, a toxic substance. Follow your community's guidelines for recycling or disposing of CFLs. If there are no special procedures in your community, place the used bulb in a sealable plastic bag, wrap it in newspaper, label it MERCURY WASTE, and put it in the garbage.*

#### 6. Keep your refrigerator operating efficiently

- If your refrigerator is more than 15 years old or is not functioning effectively, consider replacing it with an Energy Star® qualified refrigerator. If the door no longer closes tightly, replace the door seals. Keep the temperature set between 37°F and 40°F; set the freezer between 0°F and 5°F.

#### 7. Improve the efficiency of your water heater

Water heating is typically the third largest energy expense in homes. There are several steps you can take to reduce the energy used in heating water:

- Turn down the temperature setting on your water heater to Normal, or 120°F.
- Turn down the temperature setting if you will be away on vacation—continually maintaining hot water that will not be used wastes energy.
- If you are buying your home new and can choose the water heater, or if you are looking for a replacement water heater, look for one appropriately sized for your family's needs.
- Be sure to look at the EnergyGuide label for an efficient model.
- Consider buying a water heater insulation blanket if you have an electric water heater, especially if it is old or in an unconditioned area. Consult your manual before purchasing a blanket, as some manufacturers do not recommend wrapping the heater.



The U.S. Department of Energy funds a Weatherization Program administered in Georgia by the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA). Through this program, qualifying low-income households can receive weatherization assistance from local community action agencies. Contact the Weatherization Program Manager at GEFA for more information about this program:

**DIVISION OF ENERGY RESOURCES**  
**Phone (404) 584-1000**

Find your community action agency at:  
[www.gefa.org/weather/weather2.html](http://www.gefa.org/weather/weather2.html)

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