



# ENERGY STAR® CERTIFIED HOMES MAINTENANCE GUIDE AND TIPS TO ENSURE TOP PERFORMANCE

Congratulations on your new ENERGY STAR certified home! To ensure your home is operating at its highest efficiency, ENERGY STAR recommends following these simple operating and maintenance guidelines and tips.



## WHAT TO DO AFTER MOVING IN

### LIGHTING AND LIGHT BULBS

Use ENERGY STAR certified light bulbs, such as Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL) or Light Emitting Diodes (LED) to provide bright, warm light while using 75% less energy, and lasting up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs. This means more money in your pocket. Homes that use incandescent bulbs waste \$400 a year on utility bills when compared to homes that install ENERGY STAR lighting throughout.



### OUTLETS AND ELECTRONICS

Did you know that in the average U.S. home, 25 percent of electricity used by home electronics occurs while the products are off? In the United States alone, "vampire power" costs consumers more than \$3 billion a year. Reduce unnecessary costs on your utility bill by unplugging electronics such as cell phone chargers and power strips when they're not in use.

### PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT (WHEN INSTALLED)

If you have a programmable thermostat, make sure it is set properly. As much as half of the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling. One simple way to ensure you don't waste money is by correctly programming your home's programmable



thermostat. During the summer, set the thermostat 3 degrees warmer while you are at work. You can then schedule the A/C to turn on prior to your return, so the house

is nice and cool when you get home. Use the same process for setting your thermostat in the winter. By using your programmable thermostat correctly, you won't waste money heating and cooling your home when you're not there.

## WHAT TO DO EVERY YEAR

### AUTOMATIC VENTILATION SYSTEM

Your home has been constructed with an automatic ventilation system to ensure that the household has a constant supply of fresh, filtered air. Discuss with your builder what type of ventilation system you have and how to operate and maintain it properly.



### HVAC EQUIPMENT

Keep your cooling and heating system at peak performance by having a qualified contractor conduct tune-ups in the spring prior to a hot summer and in the fall before a cold winter. Maintaining your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment can have a big effect on your utility bills, and your comfort. Catch small issues before they become expensive problems. This can have a big effect on your utility bills—and your comfort.

### AIR FILTER

Check your air filter monthly and change it as needed (at least every three months) so your HVAC system will operate at peak efficiency. The air filter is designed to catch particles, which reduce the amount of air delivered through ducts. A dirty filter can even cause the air handler to shut down. So, it's important that your HVAC fan is able to blow air freely throughout the duct system so that you are getting the correct amount of air throughout your home.



### WINDOWS AND DOORS

Check the weatherstripping around your doors annually and replace as needed. Weatherstripping keeps drafts from coming in; over time, it eventually wears down. During summer months, use blinds and curtains to block unwanted heat from the sun shining through windows.



### SUMP PUMPS (WHEN INSTALLED)

In some homes, ENERGY STAR requires a sump pump to be installed in the basement or crawlspace to keep water from accumulating around the foundation. If you have one, check it after every large rain storm to make sure stones and other debris haven't made their way into the sump pump pit. If stones or other debris do make it into your sump pump, be sure to remove them. Small stones can get stuck and break your pump if they aren't removed. In addition, look into purchasing a back-up battery for the pump that will protect your basement from water damage during power outages.

Contact your ENERGY STAR builder for additional questions about maintenance of your home. Additional energy efficiency tips for appliances and other money saving resources are available at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Homes that earn the ENERGY STAR® prevent air pollution by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

