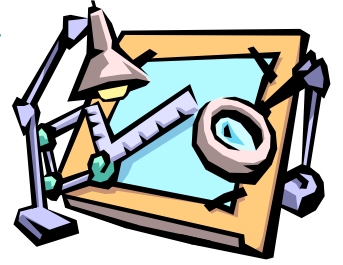


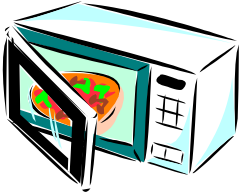
# CHB SPOTLIGHT

COLORADO HOME BUILDERS —  
YOUR LOCAL CUSTOM HOME BUILDER SINCE 1993



## ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

In the previous issue of CHB Spotlight we introduced energy savings tips and ideas for your home starting with the most important tip, which was insulating your home. In future issues we will be touching on more topics relating to saving energy in and around your home.



### In the Kitchen

Use smaller kitchen appliances whenever possible. Microwaves, toaster ovens and slow-cookers can use 75 percent less energy than a large electric oven.

Vacuum the refrigerator coils about twice a year to keep the compressor running efficiently.

As your mother always told you, don't leave the refrigerator door open. Every time it's opened, up to 30 percent of the cooled air can escape. The same rule holds for the oven, too.

Keep the refrigerator temperature about 36-38 degrees, and the freezer at 0-5 degrees.

Don't overload the refrigerator or freezer. The cold air needs to circulate freely to keep foods at the proper temperature.

Make sure the refrigerator is level, so the door automatically swings shut instead of open. If the floor isn't level, use shims to prop up the front of the refrigerator.

Don't worry about placing hot leftovers in the refrigerator. It won't affect energy use significantly, and cooling food to room temperature first can increase the chance of food-borne illnesses.

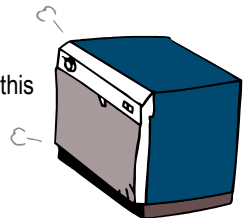
Check the seal on your refrigerator door by closing it on a dollar bill. If you can pull the bill out easily, it's time to replace the gaskets. You can purchase a replacement kit from an appliance dealer or a home center.

Use your oven's self-cleaning feature immediately after cooking, while the oven is still hot. This will reduce a lengthy warm-up time.

Use lids on pots and pans to reduce cooking times, and don't put a small pan on a large burner.

Keep the grease plates under range burners clean to reflect heat more efficiently.

Run the dishwasher only with full loads, and use the air-dry cycle. If your dishwasher has a "booster" water heater, use it; this will heat the water to the 140 degrees recommended by manufacturers, while maintaining an energy-saving 120 degrees on your primary water heater.



## ENERGY SAVINGS (CONT)

### Ways to cut down on your A/C use

Have your AC unit serviced annually before the start of the cooling season and have the exterior compressor unit cleaned so that it works more efficiently.

**Humidifier.** Make sure that your humidifier is off during the cooling season. Your AC unit pulls moisture from the air and the AC unit will remove all the moisture that the humidifier uses.

**Delay the chores.** Your dishwasher, washer, and dryer give off heat when they're in use, so run them in the early morning or late evening. Your air conditioner won't have to work as hard to offset the heat produced by the appliances. Other benefits: Running those appliances during off-peak hours reduces the stress on the power grid, helping to prevent brownouts. You might also pay less for the electricity if your utility charges less per kilowatt-hour during non-peak hours.

**Change the light bulbs.** Much of the energy used by incandescent bulbs is emitted as heat. During the day, turn off lights that are unnecessary. Also consider replacing your incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lights, or CFLs. They use about 75 percent less energy and give off 75 percent less heat to produce the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs. Switching from a 100-watt incandescent bulb to a 25-watt CFL can save you as much energy a year as switching from a standard air-conditioner to an Energy Star model. Use dimmers on incandescent light bulbs, You will reduce your energy consumption while extending the life of the bulbs.

**Make some shade.** Awnings, shades, and blinds keep sunlight from entering your home, especially useful in south and west-facing windows in the afternoon. Install them on windows, skylights, and doors that get a lot of sun.



**Use fans.** When the outside air is cooler than that inside your home, fans can come in handy. Vent fans draw in the cool air and exhaust the hot air. Window fans are inexpensive to operate and easy to install. To boost the chimney effect, in which warm air rises and vents naturally, place one blowing in on the ground floor, and another one blowing out on the floor above. To keep your air conditioner from fighting heat from the attic, install an attic fan controlled by a thermostat; it will turn on automatically when the attic temperature reaches a certain point. However many homes do not have adequate attic ventilation. Make certain that your attic is properly ventilated before installing an attic or whole house fan.

A whole-house fan can do the work of an air conditioner using much less electricity. This thermostatically controlled fan turns on in the evening and off in the early morning. It exhausts hot attic air and draws in cool outside air from open windows throughout the house, lowering the temperature inside the house by 3° to 6° F at night.

**Plant trees.** Well-placed trees can reduce the energy a home uses for cooling by up to 25 percent, according to the DOE. Deciduous trees (those that drop their leaves in fall) help the most by blocking the summer sun, yet they allow the winter sun to warm your home. Evergreen trees and shrubs offer year-round shade and block winds, which reduces heating costs. Plant trees on the northeast-southeast and northwest-southwest sides of your home; do not plant directly to the south, unless you live in an area where it is always hot. Ideally, plant at a distance from the house that is equal to two to five times the height of the mature trees.

To increase the efficiency of your air-conditioning unit by up to 10 percent, plant trees and shrubs to shade the outside unit; place them at least 18 inches away so they don't block the vents on the compressor.



**Reconsider the roofing.** More than 90 percent of the roofs in this country are dark; on a hot, sunny day, dark-colored roofs can heat up to 150° to 190° F, roasting the living spaces below. Consider adding a reflective coating to a dark roof, or when it's time to replace it, choose a lighter color, which will reflect most of the heat away from your home. Homes in the north won't benefit as much as those in warmer climates, according to the National Roofing Contractors Association. However it is important to make certain that your attic ventilation is adequate to minimize heat gain to the home heat damage to roof shingles.

**Windows.** If you have inefficient, old windows consider replacing them with new windows that have Hi-tech Low E glass as the minimum. On south west exposures where there is a lot of solar heat gain, consider using a special sunglass that blocks out much of UV from the sun that heats up the interior of the home.



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The road to success is always under construction.

~ Lily Tomlin ~

**Q&A SECTION**

We have included this section where you can ask any questions you might have in regards to construction, home inspections, remodels, renovations, additions and DIY projects. Your questions will be answered in our newsletters.

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:** coloradohomebuilders@yahoo.com

**Question:** I have a house built in the 1980's and it heats up tremendously during summer months. I do not have many windows that face south & west, what do you recommend?

**Answer:**

The first thing to look at is attic insulation. We recommend a min of 12" of insulation. Many older homes have much less. Minimal insulation allows the heat to escape during the winter, and the home to heat up during the summer. We recommend a blown-in type of insulation (fiberglass/cellulose). The cost for additional insulation is minor. The pay back for this will typically be realized within a couple of months. Care should be taken to make certain that perimeter roof ventilation is not obstructed. Baffles should be installed to maintain this ventilation.

Secondly make certain your attic space has proper ventilation. Your attic space is a buffer zone between your living space and the outside. The attic space temperature should be within 10 degrees of the exterior temperature. Such that the attic space should be cold during winter time and slightly warmer than the exterior temperature during summer. We often measure the attic temperature at 140 degrees or hotter. This creates an uncomfortable living space below. This heat also makes your AC unit work much harder and costing you more in energy. A properly ventilated attic space should have roof ventilation both near the ridge and in the perimeter soffits. The total ventilation should equal 1/300 of the floor space below the roof. Installation of a thermostatically controlled attic fan is highly recommended. This will automatically control the attic temperature and make the living space more comfortable. The average cost for a professionally installed attic fan is approx \$400.

**JUST FOR FUN**

**Mini Crossword**

**ACROSS:**

- 1. Of general appeal
- 5. Excel
- 6. Ring-shaped
- 7. Misprint

**DOWN:**

- 1. Section of text
- 2. Spouse
- 3. Pamphlet
- 4. Dais

1		2		3		4
	█		█		█	
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**REFRESHING SPRING DRINK**

**Orange Creamsicle**

Like the classic ice-cream treat that inspires it, this refreshing shake combines the zest of orange and the rich, smooth flavor of vanilla.

**RECIPE INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 Cup orange juice
- 4 scoops Vanilla frozen yogurt

Combine the orange juice and frozen yogurt in a blender or food processor. Blend until creamy. Serves 1.

**BRAIN TEASERS**

- 1. What word describes a woman who does not have all her fingers on one hand?
- 2. If there are 3 apples and you take away 2, how many do you have?

*Be sure to look for the answers to these riddles elsewhere in this issue*

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TIP'S FROM THE PROFESSIONALS -  
 STEVE'S HIGHLIGHTS



Think Green for Spring Cleaning

The seasons are changing and as the weather warms, it's once again time for your annual spring cleaning. While you want your home to look its best, some of the products you use may be doing more harm than good. Some cleaning products contain harsh chemicals that may cause skin irritation, difficulty breathing or damage the environment.

Green cleaning is using products that don't endanger you, your family or the environment. So open up your windows, play your favorite music and "think green" with these safe and effective natural alternatives:

**Baking soda:** Probably the most versatile item in your kitchen cabinet. Use it to deodorize your refrigerator, carpeting and upholstery,, remove acidic stains and safely scour sinks and countertops

Testing for baking soda freshness:

Pour a small amount of vinegar or lemon juice—a few drops—over 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda. If it doesn't bubble actively it's too old. You can even brush your teeth with baking soda.

**White distilled vinegar** — is excellent for killing mold and bacteria. Its acidic properties also dissolve soap scum on bathroom fixtures. Add 3-4 ounces of white vinegar to a bucket of clean cool water. Use a tightly rung out mop or cloth to wipe hard surface floors. The vinegar will clean the floors well and not harm the finish.

**Lemon Juice:** Acts as a stain remover and its crisp citrus scent freshens the air

Be sure to clearly label any solutions you mix and spot test each solution before using it on a large area.

P	O	P	U	L	A	R
A		A		E		O
S	U	R	P	A	S	S
S		T		F		T
A	N	N	U	L	A	R
G		E		E		U
E	R	R	A	T	U	M

Answers to brain teasers:  
 1. Normal I wouldn't be very happy if I had all my fingers (10) on one hand.  
 2. If you take 2 apples then you have of course 2.

All material contained within was written and compiled by the Colorado