

8 Tips for Home Energy Efficiency This Winter in California

Energy is an integral part of our daily lives that is easy to take for granted. As we prepare for a winter at home in California, joining together to make small changes can help make a big difference to keep California golden and enable us to be heroes for the future generation.

"Changing the way we use energy not only has the potential to reduce energy costs, but it also helps us to protect everything we love about California," said California resident, interior designer and home improvement expert and Energy Upgrade California partner Jinnie Choi. "Saving energy can become a part of your lifestyle, and it's a good excuse for a home refresh. Lightening the load on the power grid and contributing to preserving California and our planet is something everyone can feel good about."

To join the movement, Choi recommends the following tips:

- Rugs are more than décor: Cover bare floors with rugs and carpeting, which will aid with heat retention while also bringing color, texture, and pattern into a room. They're also more comfortable on bare feet!
- Invest in power strips: Did you know your devices still draw power even when they're on standby mode? A power strip with an on/off switch dedicated to home office or distance learning devices, such as tablets and computers, can make a difference.
- Eco-mode helps: Turn down the screen brightness and use eco-mode and other energy-saving features on devices. Lowering the brightness on TVs and computer monitors may help you use up to 20% less energy!



- Be airflow conscious: Obstructing vents can block air, waste energy and may even pose a fire hazard. Make sure to move any furniture blocking vents to be sure air is flowing efficiently.
- Lower the heat: Consider setting your thermostat to 68 degrees or below in colder weather months. Your home doesn't need to be at the perfect temperature when you aren't home, so make a habit of adjusting the temperature when heading out for the day.
- Consider ENERGY STAR® products: ENERGY STAR® certified appliances help consumers save money on operating costs by reducing energy use without compromising on performance. When choosing products for your own home or to recommend to clients, be sure to choose the most efficient model.
- Check up on your pilot light: While preparing for cooler weather, don't forget to peek at the pilot light on your furnace and water heater, which should be burning blue. Contact your local utility provider for help ensuring your equipment is running efficiently.
- Control your water temperature: Looking for sneaky savings? You can save energy by setting your water heater thermostat to 120°F. Your water will still get hot, but you'll save without even trying.

For more information on ways you can join the movement and more cool weather tips, visit www.keepitgolden.org.

