

## More Energy Information via the Internet

### During Blackouts:



#### No Calls to 911

No calls to 911 unless it's a real emergency.

#### Don't Touch that Door

Leave the refrigerator shut. The food inside will stay cold longer if you don't open the door.

#### Drink Up

Stay hydrated. Don't wait until you're thirsty. Remember children and older people are more prone to dehydration.

#### Be Neighborly

Check on elderly neighbors or those in need. Be sure they're drinking liquids and keeping cool during the summer or warm during the winter.

#### Watch those Lights

Remember traffic lights will probably be out during blackouts. Treat each intersection as a four-way stop. Drive defensively.

California Department of Water Resources  
<http://wwdwr.water.ca.gov>

California Resources Agency  
<http://ceres.ca.gov/CRA/>  
(click on link to California's Energy Challenge)

California Energy Commission  
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/>

"Flex Your Power" Consumer Energy Center  
<http://www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html>

Energy Quest – An energy education site for kids  
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/education/index.html>

For the latest news on the energy crisis  
[www.flexyourpower.com](http://www.flexyourpower.com)

California ISO  
<http://www.caiso.com/>

Consumer Energy Center  
[www.consumerenergycenter.org](http://www.consumerenergycenter.org)

California Department of Water Resources  
1-800-272-8869

If you need this publication in an alternate form,  
contact the Office of Water Education at 1-800-272-8869.

For TTY phone service call (916) 653-6226.



© 2001 State of California

## Conservation Tips for Your Home

compliments of the

**California Department of Water Resources**



# Flex Your Power

Like water, energy is a precious resource we cannot afford to waste. Conservation will be a way of life for all of us in the years to come. Here are some tips you can use to take control of your power bills.

## Take It Off-or Bundle Up

Whether it's hot or cold, it's best to flex your fingers and set that thermostat to as high (or low) as it's healthy for you. During the summer, setting your thermostat to 78 or above means saving lots of dollars. Dress to stay cool, take a cold shower, and slow down your activities. Then during winter's blustery days, lower your setting to 68 or below. Instead of warming the house up, put on more clothes, consume warm liquids, and use blankets, socks, or thermals—whatever you need to bring your internal thermostat up



## Out in the Garage

Do you really need that extra refrigerator in the garage to keep your drinks cold? Refrigerators are among your home's top consumers of power. A hot garage can mean spending a lot to keep a few cans cool.

## A New Kind of Bulb

Look to the new incandescent bulbs to light your home. The bulbs cost more but last much longer while lowering your power bills.



## Close 'Em Blinds

To keep the cold night air out, close the blinds. But if the day is sunny during the winter, open them to let the sun shine in. In the summer, close the blinds to keep the heat outside.



## One Light Less

Do without one light. Save those kilowatts. Every little bit counts.

## Fill 'Er Up

Wait until you have full loads before you run the dishwasher, washer, and dryer. Don't overdry your clothes; they'll wear out faster and it'll cost you more. **And** do your laundry before 11 a.m. and after 7 p.m. to help California avoid rolling blackouts during the peak hours.

## Check for Leaks

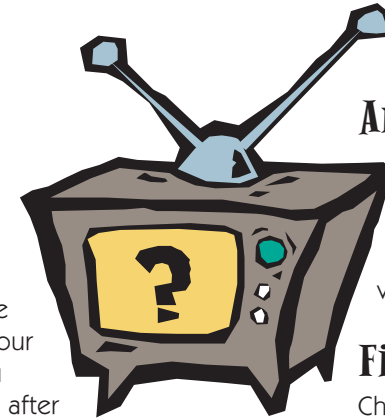
See if cold or hot air is costing you more as it leaks into your house near doors and windows. Apply new weatherstripping and caulk the cracks around windows. If you can change your windows to a more energy efficient model, it'll save you a lot in the long run.

## Attic Needs Dressing?

Adding more insulation there can save you money and make your living space more comfortable.

## Shave your Showers

If everyone in your house shaved a bit of time off their showering, the savings might be well worth it when you see your power bill go down.



## Are You Really Watching?

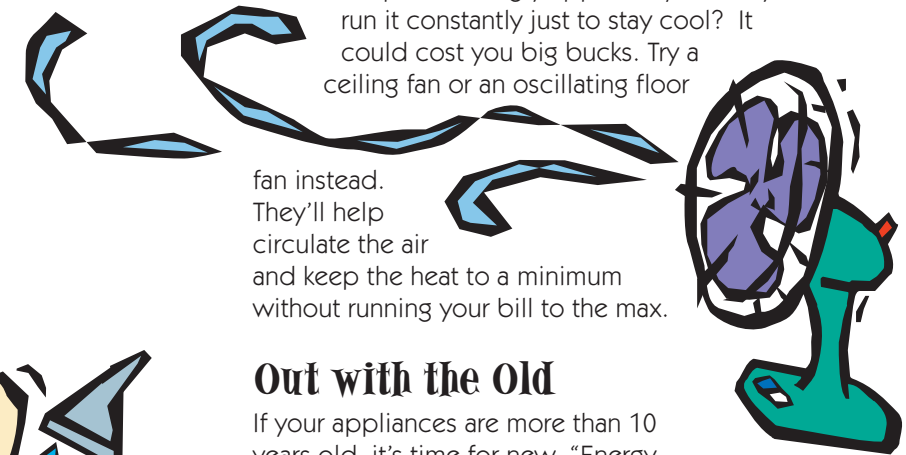
Sometimes the TV is just "white noise" in the background. You're not really paying attention; you're just used to having it on all the time. Maybe, it's time to turn it off and find out what you're not missing.

## Filter Flexing

Changing dirty furnace filters can help reduce the strain on your furnace and your bill.

## To Air or Not to Air

Knowing that the air conditioner is your home's other most power-hungry appliance, would you run it constantly just to stay cool? It could cost you big bucks. Try a ceiling fan or an oscillating floor



fan instead. They'll help circulate the air and keep the heat to a minimum without running your bill to the max.

## Out with the Old

If your appliances are more than 10 years old, it's time for new "Energy Saver" models.