# **Energy Factsheet**



## **Home Energy Checklist**

Many homes in lowa have the potential to cut their heating bills by 50% or more. This can be accomplished with a logical, well planned approach and doesn't have to cost a lot of money. We call it the "Home Energy Checklist." It begins with no cost or low cost items, sealing up the house, installing adequate and appropriately placed insulation; and last of all considers more expensive furnace modifications or replacement.

Energy conservation doesn't mean you have to sacrifice comfort and convenience. An energy efficient home is a comfortable home. If some of the items on the checklist are objectionable or don't apply to your home, go on to others. Some items may require a change in habits; but they may be easy to get used to and may save you enough money to make them worthwhile.

The following checklist is arranged by category and there is a suggested order of implementation. Every home is different and may require a special completion order. The best approach is to plan a comprehensive attack, investing first in the items which give you the greatest

savings for the least investment. The items marked with an asterisk (\*) are, for the most part, only marginally cost effective and may be done for reasons other than energy savings.

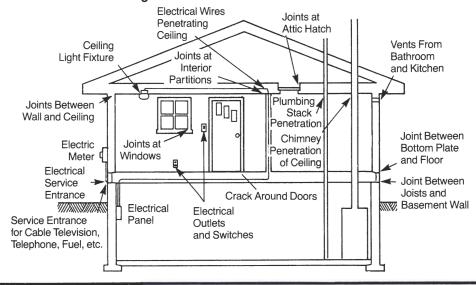
#### Tightening and Insulating

STRATEGY: Your home should be sealed and then insulated. Air leakage usually amounts to 30-40% of your heating bill. Stopping air leakage is not only important for energy savings and comfort, but also to protect your home from the damaging effects of moisture. Air leaking into the walls from the interior of the home carries humidity with it. This can cause condensation. The condensation gets the insulation wet and could eventually cause the surrounding wood to rot.

#### MYTHS ABOUT AIR LEAKAGE

MYTH: Window and doors are the largest source of heat loss in the home and replacing old leaky windows with new energy efficient ones will yield tremendous energy savings.

#### Areas Where Air Leakage Occurs



FACT: Only about 15% of air leakage is through windows and doors, and if a single-glazed window with a storm is replaced with a double-glazed window, the conduction losses have not been lowered at all. The largest sources of air leakage are often overlooked. These include the band joist area at the top of the foundation, and holes into the attic. There are many good reasons to replace your windows: if they are structurally unsound, or to improve appearance, for ease of use or cleaning. But the cost of new windows is usually so high that it is difficult to justify their replacement on energy savings alone. MYTH: Caulking around the out-

MYTH: Caulking around the outside of the house makes a house as tight as you can get it. FACT: Caulking around the interior of the home around the wood-

work, baseboard, band joist and in the attic is the only sure way to significantly reduce air leakage. Caulking on the outside is mainly for keeping rain out of the walls and doesn't significantly slow air leakage. It also doesn't stop moisture from entering the walls from the inside and causing condensation problems.

MYTH: Stuffing fiberglass insulation into cracks will stop air infiltration.

FACT: Fiberglass is a good insulator and makes a great furnace filter, but it doesn't stop air infiltration. It may slow it down some but caulking or a closed cell foam must be used in order to stop air infiltration.

#### **MYTHS ABOUT INSULATION**

MYTH: Heat rises, so if your attic is well insulated, your home is well insulated.

FACT: Heat is lost in relation to the level of insulation, not the direction. The attic is often the easiest to insulate and therefore is

January 1986

This material was prepared with the support of the United States Department of Energy grant number DE-1847-80CS69097. However, any opinion, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed herein are those of the authors' and do not necessarily reflect the views of DOE. For more information, please contact the Energy Hotline, REPC, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA:50319; or call toll-firee (800) 532-1114; in Des Moines call :281-7017.

☐ Replace broken glass and loose Install a top sealing damper. usually done first. To be adeputty on window glazing. Provide outside air for combustion. quately insulated, a home must Caulk around window and door also have the walls and basement BASEMENT:■ woodwork, sealing where the frame ☐ Seal the band joist and sill with caulk meets the wall and all other joints MYTH: Since your basement isn't or foam sealant. in the window woodwork with a clear heated and dirt is a good insulator, Caulk around basement windows. sealant. you don't need to worry about ☐ Seal any holes in the foundation wall insulating your basement walls. Caulking Around a Window with caulk or foam sealant. FACT: If your attic and walls are Seal the hole where the bath tub Seal All insulated, an uninsulated base-Fixed Joints drain comes down and any other ment can account for one third of plumbing or electrical penetrations your heating bill, whether you heat into the basement ceiling with caulk your basement directly or not. or foam sealant. Hold the Your above ground basement Insulate the band joist. Caulking Gun walls have the same insulating If you have a crawl space, place a at a 45° Angle value as a double-paned window. layer of plastic on the dirt floor, close MYTH: Adding new siding, espeany vents, and insulate the walls by cially siding with a 1/2 inch of insuhanging fiberglass batts down them lation behind it, will result in and out two feet onto the floor. significant energy savings. If you have a floor over an unheated FACT: New siding has very little space, such as a tucked-under gainsulation value in itself. Its only rage, insulate the space between energy saving benefit is some the floor and the garage to R-20 or tightening up of the home. Adding greater. 1/2 inch of white beadboard to an ☐ Insulate the basement one of the Window. Baseboards uninsulated wall will save approxifollowing ways: and Quarter-round mately \$10-15 of natural gas per Sealed with Caulking 1) Interior - build a 2x4 wall, year per 1000 square feet of wall insulate with batt insulation Seal around all ceiling fixtures, heat surface in conductive losses. Addand cover with drywall or registers, medicine cabinet, bath ing it to an already insulated wall paneling. tub, kitchen cabinets, drain and will result in even less savings. 2) Interior - use 2x2 firring water pipes where they enter the strips with 11/2 inch rigid wall in the kitchen and bath, and ATTIC: ■ foam insulation between any other interior or exterior wall Weatherstrip attic access door. and cover with drywall. penetrations. Insulate attic access door by attach-3) Exterior - install extruded If you have double hung windows ing foam insulation or fiberglass batt polystyrene or high density with ropes and pulleys install pulley to the back. fiberglass down from the seals over the pulleys. The pulley □ Caulk electrical wire penetrations at siding (protect the exposed seal fits around the rope and pulley the top of the interior walls and wires portion) to one foot below and reduces air infiltration at that into ceiling fixtures. grade (v) and then slope it location. Seal around the plumbing stack(s). out away from the house Weatherstrip windows and doors. ☐ Seal around the chimney using a 2-3 feet. Seal the top half of your double hung high temperature sealant such as 4) Exterior - install extruded windows with a clear sealant after muffler cement and metal flashing polystyrene or high density you've weatherstripped the middle where necessary. fiberglass down from the section. Caulk along the tops of interior walls siding all the way down to Install plastic over inside of winwhere the top plate meets the plasthe footings. This method dows. If you desire something more ter or drywall. would only be practical if permanent than plastic, install inte-☐ Seal all other holes between the you had to dig up your rior storm windows. heated space and the attic. basement for other rea-☐ Caulk along baseboard (including ☐ Insulate the attic to R-40. If it is over sons, such as water interior walls) with a clear sealant. R-30, go on to other items before problems. Cut the ropes and remove the puladding additional insulation. levs and install replacement window **EXTERIOR:** ■ channels on double hung windows. MAIN LEVEL: ■ ☐ Caulk around all penetrations such ☐ Replace your old entry door with an Install foam gaskets on all outlets as electrical, telephone, cable, gas, insulated door.\* and switches, even on interior walls, dryer vents, water faucets, etc. Install an insulated window and use child safety plugs backed Caulk around window and door treatment.\* with gasket punch-outs to keep the frames. □ Replace your old windows.\* cold air from coming in through the Caulk around storm windows where sockets. If you have a fireplace: the metal meets the window frame if If you have a room air conditioner, Check to make sure damper is closyou have combination storms. If you remove it for the winter or seal it up ing tightly. have wooden storms that must be and insulate it. Water heater insula-Install tight fitting glass doors and/or exchanged for screens in the sumtion jackets can work well for covermake a decorative insulated cover mer, use rope caulk to seal around ing the interior. the storm.

	Install storm windows on all single-
	glazed windows. Install a storm door where you have
	none.
Ш	If you have an exposed slab-on- grade, dig down a couple of feet and
	install extruded polystrene down from the siding.
	If you are re-siding, consider adding
	3/4" to $11/2$ " of rigid foam insulation and wrap the home with an air bar-
	rier (vapor permeable) material.
	Make sure the house walls are insulated before re-siding.
	ŭ

#### **Heating System**

STRATEGY: If your heating bills are high, your first thought might be to put in a new high efficiency furnace. But your first step should be to tighten up the house and adequately insulate it. Then consider furnace replacement. If you install the furnace and then make other energy improvements, the furnace will be oversized and might not operate properly or at peak efficiency. By making other improvements first, you may be able to reduce your furnace size. After making improvements, the 90% + efficiency furnace may no longer be vour best investment because vour heating demand is much lower. The lower your heating demand, the more the 75-85% efficient furnace tends to be a better investment. When replacing a furnace in a tight house, it is recommended that you install one with an induced draft fan or sealed combustion using only outside air.

#### **MYTHS ABOUT HEATING**

mostat at night or when you are gone, you will use more energy to warm up the house again than what you saved. FACT: You always save by turning down your thermostat no matter how long you will be gone. The one exception is an electric heat pump. When you turn it up in the morning, the electric back-up elements kick on to bring the house up to temperature faster. You can purchase a special setback thermostat that compensates for this and will provide savings. MYTH: You should leave your pilot light burning during the summer to keep moisture from accumulating in your heat exchanger and rusting it out. FACT: When gas burns, it gives

MYTH: If you turn down your ther-

off a considerable amount of water vapor. Leaving the pilot burning can actually cause the heat exchanger to rust more.

MYTH: You can warm up the house faster if you turn the thermostat up to 75-80 degrees initially.

FACT: The house warms up at the warms of the w

FACT: The house warms up at the same rate no matter what temperature you set the thermostat at. Setting it higher can cause the furnace to overshoot the desired temperature, wasting energy.

MYTH: Installing a ceiling fan on an eight foot ceiling will keep warm air from accumulating near the ceiling and save considerable energy.

FACT: If you have forced-air furnace and/or a tight well-insulated house, there will be little if any difference in air temperature from the floor to ceiling. Running a ceiling fan creates a draft that could cause you to turn up your thermostat to feel comfortable. The only exception might be a vaulted ceiling.

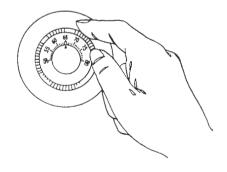
#### **HEATING TIPS:**

- Use bath and kitchen vents sparingly when moisture and odors are not a problem.
- Lock your windows so they will seal tighter
- ☐ Try to use doors that are protected from the wind.
- ☐ Be sure thermostat is located away from heat sources and cold drafts.
- Close drapes at night and on cloudy days.

#### **OPERATIONAL TIPS**

☐ Set the thermostat at 68°F when occupied and 60°F at night or when unoccupied. If you are going to be gone for a few days turn it down as low as it will go.

#### Lower thermostat settings



Close registers and doors to unused
rooms.
Don't block registers with furniture.
Set the fan limit switch to come on at
100°F and off at 90°F.
Change the filter once every month
or two.
Have the furnace serviced (tuned)
every 2-5 years.
Lower boiler temperature in the
spring and fall.

### IMPROVING YOUR EXISTING FURNACE:

- Insulate pipes and ducts in unheated areas.
- Install an auto setback thermostat if you have trouble remembering to turn down your thermostat or want the house to be warm when you get up in the morning and when you return from work. (If you turn it down manually now, you won't save energy, but you will add convenience.)
- Install a vent damper. (If your water heater uses the same chimney for venting, you need to install one on it also.)
- Install a modulating aquastat on a boiler to adjust its temperature according to outdoor temperature.
- Tape all the joints in the ductwork.\*
   Install an electronic ignition.\*
- ☐ Install a heat reclaimer.\*
- ☐ Install an induced draft attachment if there is a potential for flue gases to come back down the chimney.\*
- Install outside air for combustion if your house is extremely tight.\*

#### INSTALLING A NEW FURNACE:

Install a new medium-to-high efficiency furnace. The efficiency is measured in AFUE (Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency). Replacement should be considered only after the house has been tightened up and fully insulated.

#### Air Conditioning

STRATEGY: The best approach to take in staying cool for the summer is to keep the heat out with house tightening, insulation, and window shading; refer to Tightening and Insulating. Next try to avoid heat producing tasks inside your home. If it is still too warm to tolerate, try some of the air conditioning alternatives offered below. If you must resort to the air conditioner, follow the operating tips below for most efficient operation. Finally, if you use your air conditioner extensively, it may pay to replace it with a more efficient model.

#### **MYTHS ABOUT AIR** needed. **CONDITIONING:** ☐ Install reflective window films or solar screens on unshaded east and MYTH: It's more efficient to leave west windows. (Cost effective only if the air conditioner running than to you run your air conditioner extenshut it off and have to re-cool the sively, otherwise it's a comfort house later. issue). FACT: You begin saving as soon as you shut off your air condi-AIR CONDITIONING ALTERNATIVES: tioner. If your house is tight and Open your windows in the evening well insulated, it may stay cool all to capture the cool breezes and day. This will only work if you keep close them early in the morning on your house closed up all day. Opening the windows not only heats up the house, but also dav. allows the humidity back in that your air conditioner worked so hard to remove. The exception to keeping windows closed is at night when it is cool outside. **COOLING TIPS:** ☐ Wear lightweight, light colored clothing made of natural fibers. It will reflect heat and absorb perspiration. making you feel cooler. Drink plenty of liquids. ☐ Plan cold meals with cold cuts, salads, etc. ☐ If you are going to cook, use appliances that don't produce much heat higher. such as microwaves, crockpots, frying pans, etc. Or enjoy the outdoors and barbeque. ☐ Schedule heat producing tasks for the early morning or late evening instead of during the hottest part of costs. the day. ☐ Turn off unnecessary lights and appliances. Keep both primary and storm windows shut when closing up the

house for the day or when running

days, especially the east and west

this will keep out even more heat.

☐ Try to use as little hot water as possible. It adds heat and humidity.

vented outdoors. You don't need the

nace. This saves gas and heat. Ask

a dealer how to turn off and relight

pilot lights. Pilot lights on most gas

ers also contribute to the cooling

load. Shut off unnecessary pilot

lights and light by hand when

appliances such as stoves and dry-

heat or humidity inside the house. Or use your "solar clothes dryer,"

☐ Use bath and kitchen vents to

exhaust heat and moisture.

☐ Make sure your clothes dryer is

 $\ \ \square$  Turn off the pilot light on your fur-

the clothesline.

Close your drapes on hot sunny

drapes. If there is some way to shade your windows on the outside

the air conditioner.

hot days. If your home is tight and well insulated, it may stay cool all ☐ If your basement is livable, temporarily move downstairs on hot summer days. It is often 10-15 degrees cooler than the upstairs. ☐ Use fans whenever possible. ☐ Install a whole house fan (only works if it is cooler outside than inside) and provide a good cover to seal it in the winter. ☐ Install a ceiling fan to create air movement. The air movement can keep you cool at a higher temperature, allowing you to avoid running your air conditioner or letting vou set the air conditioner temperature **OPERATIONAL TIPS:** ☐ Set the thermostat at 78 degrees. Each degree higher saves approximately 6 percent on air conditioning Don't turn the thermostat lower than the desired setting. The house will not cool off any faster and can overshoot the desired temperature, wasting energy. ☐ If the house is unoccupied during the day, you will save energy and money if you turn off your air conditioner and leave your house closed up. It may stay cool all day. If not, and you don't like coming home to a warm house, purchase a clock thermostat to turn on the air con-

ditioner in time to have the home

night if it is cooler outside than

☐ Turn off the air conditioner if you're leaving the home for more than an

☐ Keep grills and heat exchangers

☐ Clean the unit before each cooling

☐ Shade the outside compressor unit

but don't block the air circulation.

season (See manufacturer's

inside. Open the windows and use

clean and filters frequently changed.

cool when you arrive. ☐ Don't run your air conditioner all

the fan.

hour.

instructions).

#### **INSTALLING A NEW** AIR CONDITIONER:

☐ Install a new medium to high efficiency air conditioner. Efficiency is measured in SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio or Btu/ watt). The higher the SEER the more efficient the air conditioner.

#### **Water Heating System**

STRATEGY: Two steps to reducing water heating costs: first, cut your hot water consumption and second, your standby losses from the water heater tank when not in use.

MYTH: Rinsing clothes or dishes in warm water gets them cleaner. FACT: Rinsing in warm water, even hot water, won't get your clothes or dishes any cleaner.

#### **REDUCING CONSUMPTION:**

- □ Don't run water unnecessarily. Repair leaky faucets promptly. ☐ Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.
- Always use cold water for the garbage disposal.
- ☐ Use a cold water laundry detergent and always rinse in cold.
- ☐ Install flow restrictors in lavatories and showers or water saving showerheads for showers.

#### REDUCING STANDBY LOSSES:

☐ Set the water heater temperature at 110-120°F if you don't have a dishwasher or if you have one with a booster heater. A dishwasher usually requires 140°F.

#### Lower water temperature settings



- ☐ Drain a bucket of water out of your water heater at least once a year or more often if you have hard water to flush out the sediment that can accumulate.
- Insulate your water heater.



Insulate the first ten feet of hot and	Vacuum refrigerator coils	RANGE:
cold water pipes out of the water		Pilot lights on a gas range can consume
heater.		up to 50% of the annual energy con-
<ul> <li>Insulate pipes in unheated spaces.</li> </ul>		sumption of the range. You may want to
<ul><li>Install a vent damper on a gas water</li></ul>		try lighting the burners by hand, espe-
heater.		cially in the summer when the pilot
Set an electric water heater on		lights add unwanted heat into the
1 inch of extruded polystyrene foam		kitchen.
insulation. Most electric water heat-		
ers have no insulation on the		Turn off range pilot lights
bottom.		3-7
		1
<ul> <li>Install a heat trap on both the hot</li> </ul>		
and cold water lines if moving or		BURNER ( /) BURNER
installing a new water heater.	/// /	PILOT KNOBS
Add a booster heater to your dish-	·	LIGHT
	tion. Keeping your refrigerator or	
washer so you can turn your water	freezer filled will help your food stay	
heater temperature down.		
DIOTALLING A NEW	cold if the power goes out.	
INSTALLING A NEW	<ul> <li>Keep liquids tightly covered or evap-</li> </ul>	
WATER HEATER:	oration will cause frost to build up.	
<ul> <li>Replace an old water heater with a</li> </ul>	☐ Turn on the energy saver switch	
newer more efficient one.		TURN SCREW UNTIL \ \ \
	unless moisture begins to condense	PILOT LIGHT GOES OUT
<ul> <li>Install a passive or active solar water</li> </ul>	on the refrigerator.	
heating system.*	<ul> <li>If you have a manual defrost model,</li> </ul>	Operating Tips:
	don't let frost build up more than	
	1/4 inch.	☐ Keep burner reflectors, burner tips,
Appliances		and bottoms of pans clean.
<u> </u>	<ul> <li>Replace gaskets that don't seal</li> </ul>	Use the oven instead of the range
STRATEGY: Use the following tips to	tightly.	when cooking several dishes at the
	If your refrigerator or freezer will not	same time.
operate your appliances wisely. If your	be used for a long period, clean it	
electric bills seem extraordinarily high,		Use the microwave when warming
contact your local utility to see if they	out, unplug it and leave the door	foods up.
have a meter you can borrow to check	open.	<ul> <li>Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator</li> </ul>
the consumption of your appliances.	□ Don't run a second refrigerator or	
	freezer if not essential.	overnight before cooking them.
You may find some older appliances	ireczer ir not essertiai.	<ul> <li>Place the pan on the burner before</li> </ul>
consuming higher than normal amounts	Refrigerator Buying Tips:	turning the burner on.
of electricity. Replacing them with new		☐ Match pan size to burner size, and
more efficient appliances is your next	☐ Compare "EnergyGuide" labels for	cover pans with lids whenever
	operating costs.	
step.	☐ Frost-free units consume almost	possible.
DEEDICEDATOR (EDEEZED:	twice as much energy as manual	<ul> <li>Use pressure cookers when</li> </ul>
REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER:		possible.
Refrigerators account for the largest	defrost models, but only if you keep	☐ Use only the minimum amount of
portion of appliance energy consump-	the manual unit defrosted. If you buy	
tion. Replacing an older refrigerator with	a frost free refrigerator, select one	heat and water needed to cook your
a new energy efficient model could cut	with an energy saver option.	food.
	☐ The larger the capacity, the more it	<ul> <li>Don't boil water for six cups of coffee</li> </ul>
your operating costs in half. An ineffi-		if you only plan to drink two.
cient refrigerator also adds a consid-	costs to keep the same amount of	a year only plan to anim two.
erable amount of heat to your kitchen in	food cold. The size needed depends	Buying Tips:
the summer.	on family size, shopping habits, fam-	☐ Glass top units are less efficient than
	ily members' ages and eating habits.	surface elements.
Operating Tips:	☐ Side-by-side units generally con-	
☐ Place the refrigerator away from		$\square$ If you are selecting a gas range, buy
	sume more energy than refrigera-	one with an electronic ignition.
heat sources such as the range,	tors with the freezer on the top or	A
oven, heat registers and direct	bottom.	OVEN:
sunlight.		Operating Tips:
☐ Don't block air circulation around the	Freezer Buying Tips:	☐ Don't use the oven for small cooking
refrigerator.	☐ Compare "EnergyGuide" labels for	jobs.
	operating costs.	
☐ Set the refrigerator temperature at		☐ Rearrange oven shelves before pre-
34-37 degrees and freezer tempera-	☐ Chest freezers are more energy effi-	heating the oven.
ture at 0-5 degrees.	cient than upright models, since they	<ul> <li>Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator</li> </ul>
☐ Vacuum the vents and coils twice a	don't lose as much cold air when	before cooking.
year. Dust makes them work harder	you open the door.	
		☐ Cook several foods in the oven at
to cool.	☐ Don't buy a larger freezer than your	the same time if possible.
<ul> <li>Cut down the number of times you</li> </ul>	family needs. Do you prepare food	<ul> <li>Lower the oven temperature by 25</li> </ul>
open the door.	in advance? Have a garden? Buy	degrees when baking with glass or
☐ Keep refrigerators and freezers full	large supplies of seasonal fresh	ceramic dishes.
	food? Entertain frequently? These	
but not overcrowded. Allow enough		<ul> <li>Most foods don't need a preheated</li> </ul>
space between food for air circula-	factors should be considered.	oven.

	1.00	
Avoid peeking; the oven temperature lowers up to 25 degrees each time you open the door.	WASHER: Operating Tips:  Wash in warm or cold water and	<ul> <li>Insulate under and around the sides of your waterbed mattress with 1 inch extruded polystyrene.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Turn the oven off a few minutes early and use retained heat to finish cooking.</li> </ul>	always rinse in cold. Rinsing in warm or hot water doesn't get your clothes any cleaner.	Lighting
<ul> <li>Use the selfcleaning feature when the oven is already hot from previ-</li> </ul>	Select the water level to match the load size or wash only full loads.	STRATEGY: To save on lighting costs,
ous use.  Replace oven door seal if it leaks	<ul> <li>Don't overwash clothes. Use short cycles for lightly soiled and delicate</li> </ul>	first make use of natural light whenever possible, and make sure lights are
heat.  Never use the oven to heat the kitchen.	clothes. <b>Buying Tips:</b> ☐ Compare "EnergyGuide" labels for	turned off when not in use. Then lower lighting levels where they are higher than necessary by replacing some bulbs with lower wattage bulbs, or
Buying Tips:  The most energy efficient units are the self-cleaning types. They have	<ul> <li>operating costs.</li> <li>Select a model with a variety of settings for water level and temperature, including a cold rinse option.</li> </ul>	replacing some bulbs in multi-bulb fix- tures with burned out bulbs. Bulbs and fixtures can also be replaced with higher efficiency ones.
more insulation than other models.  ☐ Ovens with windows save energy by	<ul><li>Compare models for water usage.</li><li>Look for a suds saver feature and</li></ul>	MYTHS ABOUT LIGHTING:
reducing peeking, but the smaller the window the better.	install a suds saving tank so you can wash several loads of lightly soiled	MYTH: You save the most energy by leaving fluorescent lights on.
MICROWAVE OVEN:	clothes with the same water.	FACT: Fluorescent lights use very
Operating Tips:	DRYER:	little energy when turned on and the wear on the bulb is small.
Use the microwave for single dishes and warming things up. For large	Operating Tips:  Clean the lint filter after every load.	They should be shut off whenever they are not needed.
quantities or several dishes use the oven or range.	<ul><li>☐ Dry similar fabrics together.</li><li>☐ Don't overload, but dry full loads.</li></ul>	OPERATIONAL TIPS:
Use the range for high liquid foods	□ Don't overdry your clothes.	☐ Make use of natural light as much
over four cups.  Defrost foods in the refrigerator	<ul> <li>Plan washing and drying so the dryer can be reloaded while it is still</li> </ul>	as possible.  ☐ Turn off lights when not in use, even
overnight when possible instead of	warm.	if you are out of the room for a few
using the microwave.	<ul> <li>Dry clothes outside whenever possible.</li> </ul>	minutes.  Use lower wattage bulbs in fixtures
DISHWASHER: Operating Tips:	☐ İnstall a diverter on an electric dryer	where you don't need much light,
☐ Scrape the dishes before placing	to vent the warm exhaust into the	such as hallways and bedrooms.
them in the dishwasher so you can	home in the winter if humidity is not a problem. This diverter should not	☐ Where possible, use one higher wattage bulb instead of several
use the shortest cycle possible to clean the dishes.	vent near the dryer or the furnace.	lower watt bulbs. However, don't use
$\square$ Clean the filter screen over the drain	Never vent a gas dryer into the house, its exhaust contains harmful	a higher watt bulb than the fixture will allow. A 100 watt bulb gives off
regularly.  Don't use the rinse and hold cycle.	products of combustion.	20% more light than two 60 watt
☐ Run only full loads.	Add an electronic ignition to a gas dryer.*	bulbs.  □ Don't use "long-life" bulbs unless
<ul> <li>If you don't have a booster heater on your dishwasher, turn your water</li> </ul>	Buying Tips:	they are in a position that makes
heater temperature down as low as	☐ Choose a dryer with a variety of	replacement very difficult. They are less efficient.
possible while still getting your	settings for different fabrics.	□ Dust your light bulbs periodically.
dishes clean.  Open the door and allow the dishes	<ul><li>It should have an easy to reach lint filter.</li></ul>	Dusty bulbs can emit 20% less light.
to dry naturally instead of using the	☐ Select a dryer with a moisture sen-	☐ Install special high efficiency bulbs in lamps. They can be up to 3 times
dishwasher's drying cycle.  In the summer, use the dishwasher	sor that will shut it off when the clothes are dry.	as efficient as ordinary incandescent
early in the morning or late in the	☐ If purchasing a gas dryer, select one	bulbs.  Use fluorescent fixtures and bulbs
evening when it's cooler outside.	with an electronic ignition.  Gas dryers cost considerably less to	wherever possible. They use 1/4 the
Buying Tips:	operate than electric dryers, but you	energy of an incandescent bulb for
<ul> <li>Compare "EnergyGuide" labels for operating costs.</li> </ul>	lose the benefit of venting into the house in the winter.	the same amount of light, and last 10 times as long.
<ul> <li>Compare water usage when shop-</li> </ul>		☐ Install solid state dimmer switches
ping for a dishwasher.  Buy a unit with an air dry and a short	WATERBED: Operating Tips:	on incandescent fixtures.  □ Purchase lamps and fixtures so you
cycle selector.	☐ Keep the bed covered during the	can light the area you're working in
<ul> <li>Select one that has a booster heater so you can turn the water heater</li> </ul>	day. ☐ Use a mattress pad so you can get	without lighting the whole room.  When redecorating use light colors
temperature down.	by with a lower water temperature.	to reflect more light.
•		