



REDUCING ENERGY

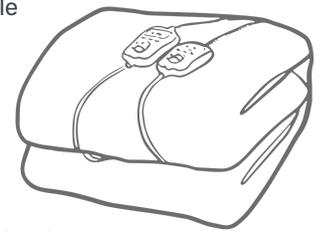
Energy Justice

What can you do to reduce your energy use? There are many ways people try to stay warm in the winter. The heating sources below can be helpful, but it is important to know how to safely use them in your home.

ELECTRIC BLANKETS

Some people use an electric blanket to stay warm at night and turn the thermostat down a few degrees. If you are going to use an electric blanket, ***please follow these safety guidelines:***

- Only use an electric blanket that has been safety tested by Underwriters Laboratories.
- Do NOT use electric blankets that are more than 10 years old.
- Read and follow the instruction manual.
- Follow the safety instructions. Sometimes you should not use electric blankets with some kinds of sheets and pillows.
- Keep the temperature setting low.
- Make sure to turn it off in the morning. If you leave it on, you are still wasting energy!
- NEVER dry clean your electric blanket. It is safest to wash electric blankets on a gentle cycle and hang to air dry.
- Store flat.
- Don't keep stuffed animals on the bed.
- DO NOT use if you have diabetes or insensitivity to heat.
- Make sure the cord is not crimped or pinched.



SPACE HEATER

Many people use space heaters to heat only one room in their house. PLEASE BE CAREFUL when using a space heater. They are a leading cause of fire-related deaths in the United States. Space heaters also use A LOT of energy, and may actually increase your energy costs! If you are going to use a space heater, ***please follow these safety guidelines:***

- Only use a space heater that has been tested and certified by Underwriters Laboratories.
- Only use a space heater that has a tip-over safety switch. This safety switch ensures that if the space heater is tipped over, it will immediately turn off. This is VERY IMPORTANT if you have children at home.
- Make sure your space heater has a thermostat that you can control. This allows you to turn the heater higher and lower, depending on your preference.
- Use a space heater that is the proper size for the room. If you get a very small space heater for a large room, it will be on constantly.
- Place the space heater on a level surface, and away from busy hallways or foot traffic.
- NEVER use with an extension cord with a space heater.

