

## Energy saving inventory

A housecleaning or fix-up should include a survey of ways to reduce energy use around the house.

A small amount of effort and virtually no inconvenience can mean substantial savings on future utility bills, according to the Alliance to Save Energy.

Try clipping this article and posting it somewhere as a reminder of ways to save energy and money. Inventory the house one room at a time and check to see if these energy-saving suggestions are being followed:

### Kitchen

—Use cold water rather than hot to operate the food disposal.

—Install an aerator in the kitchen sink faucet.

—Never boil water in an open pan.

—Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean.

—Match the size of pan to the heating element.

—If cooking with electricity, turn off the burners several minutes before the allotted cooking time.

—Be sure the dishwasher is full before it is turned on.

—Let the dishes air dry by turning off the dishwasher after the final rinse.

—Rinse off dishes in cold water.

—Don't keep the refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 38 to 40 degrees for fresh food section and five degrees for the freezer compartment.

—Make sure the refrigerator door seals are airtight. Test them by closing the door over a piece of paper so that it is half in and half out. If the paper can be pulled out easily the seal may need replacing.

—Regularly defrost manual-defrost refrigerators and freezers.

—Use ventilating fans sparingly.

### Laundry

—Wash clothes in warm or cold water, rinse in cold.

—Fill the washer unless it has variable water levels.

—Use the suds saver if present.

—Fill the clothes dryer but do not overload it.

—Keep the dryer lint screen clean.

—In good weather use the clothesline.

### Bathroom

—Take showers rather than baths.

—Install a flow restrictor in the showerhead.

—Use the ventilating fan sparingly.

### Everywhere

—Turn off lights when the room is empty.

—Use fluorescent lights wherever possible.

—Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows.

—Close off unoccupied rooms and shut off air-conditioning vents. (This does not apply with heat pump systems).

—Set the thermostat at 70 degrees when using central air conditioning.

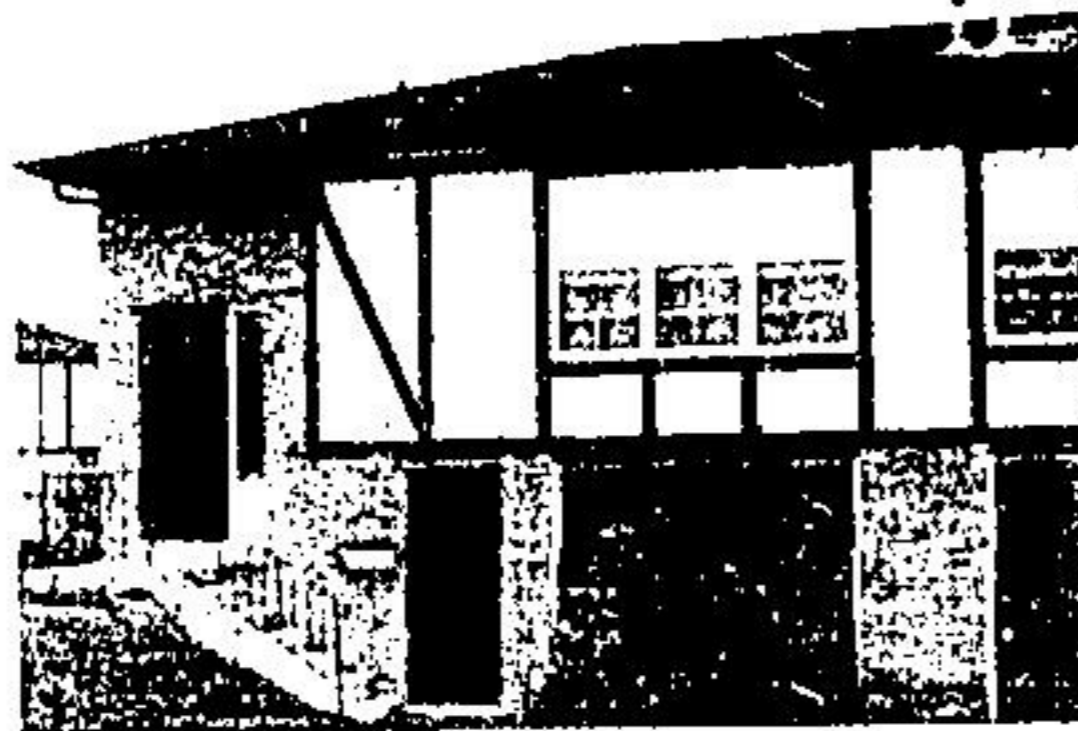
—Keep out sun with awnings or draw shades and drapes indoors. This can reduce heat gain from the sun by as much as 80 per cent.

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