

Spring Cleaning And Efficiency

Finally, the long cold winter is in the past and spring is in the air! As the seasons change and new growth begins, so do several opportunities and various measures that, when implemented, will help you save money while improving energy efficiency in your home.

Let's first look at a few measures to take for the prime user of electricity, which is the HVAC system. Now is the time to have your HVAC unit serviced in preparation for summer weather. Contact a licensed HVAC company for an annual service visit. They should check freon levels and clean the system properly. Make sure the freon line insulating foam is in good shape or replace it if needed.

We also recommend the replacement of return filters. Keep in mind that the less expensive fiberglass type provides maximum air flow and energy efficiency.

It is also important to check any outside units. Make sure there is at least two feet of clearance between the unit and any trees, bushes, or shrubs. This may require them being cut back or pruned.

Last but not least, don't forget to check ductwork for leaks.

Duct system joints and trunk lines should be sealed with Mastic sealant to help reduce air infiltration. Studies show that an estimated 30 percent of energy lost in the US is through leaky ductwork!

Once you have completed maintenance on the HVAC system, evaluate air infiltration and sealing inside your home. Keeping your home sealed is key to retaining the conditioned air inside. Door weatherstripping is an easy do-it-yourself project. Keep in mind that if the door is shut and sunlight penetrates around it, it's time for maintenance. Also, remember that any penetrations into unconditioned spaces such as attic access doors or around plumbing will need attention and repair. Keeping your home air tight is a great way to save energy and money!

As you start your spring cleaning, be sure to add to your list the cleaning of refrigerator coils. This can be done with a fox tail or a vacuum cleaner, depending on the refrigerator model. Check deep freezers for a proper and tight seal and replace any broken seals to reduce energy consumption. Refrigerators should only run about one-third of the time,



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therefore, a normal run time is about 20 minutes per hour. If you find your refrigerator running all the time, it is most likely time to replace it with an Energy Star qualified model.

South River EMC has rebates on various Energy Star appliances! Look for the Energy Star logo on the energy guide before you purchase it. If you do purchase it, be sure to send in the rebate application for process. Therefore, as you complete your thorough "spring cleaning" this year, take a few extra steps to save energy and money. If you are interested in seeing all of the rebate and programs we offer, please visit sremc.com and check out our energy star rebates. You can find many other ways to save at sremc.com/advise-guys.

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