



YOUR ENERGY SAVINGS GUIDE

Easy ways to improve comfort, manage usage, and reduce costs



Energy Efficiency
PROGRAM

AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/MyHome

CONTENTS

Monthly Home Maintenance	03
Fall & Winter Home Maintenance	04
Spring & Summer Home Maintenance	05
Advanced Power Strips	06
Energy-Efficient Lighting	07
Smart Thermostats	08
Efficient Choice Tool	09

Ameren Illinois is committed to helping customers find ways to improve comfort, manage usage, and reduce costs. From renovation projects to everyday living, there are easy, do-it-yourself energy-saving tasks that you can do to improve the comfort and resale value of your home. Ready to take action? The next several sections will discuss how to start saving! Most improvements can be accomplished using the tools you already have at home.



MONTHLY HOME MAINTENANCE

- ✓ **Check your lighting.** Replace non-working and traditional light bulbs with LED light bulbs.
- ✓ **Check HVAC system filters.** It is recommended to check your filters every 30 days. Clean or replace filters when they get dirty. Some filters are reusable, while others are disposable and must be replaced.
- ✓ **Look for leaks around toilets and sinks.** Investigate further when you see water where you shouldn't. A leak could cost you hundreds of dollars each year.
- ✓ **Inspect grout and caulking.** Touch up cracks in tubs and showers. This helps to avoid water damage and keeps them looking like new.
- ✓ **Check kitchen vent hood filter.** Clean or replace your kitchen vent hood filter when needed. Consider looking at the vent hood filter more often if you have an avid chef in the home.
- ✓ **Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.** In addition to a monthly test, you should change the batteries every six months. Make a habit of changing the batteries when you change your clocks during daylight savings time.
- ✓ **Stroll around outside.** You are probably outside your home on a regular basis — cutting the grass, shoveling the snow, or just sitting outside enjoying the weather. But how often do you really look it over? Walk around the house and investigate the foundation, vents, gutters, and drainpipes. This is the time when you will recognize minor concerns, and as we all know, minor concerns can turn into big problems if they go undetected.



FALL AND WINTER HOME MAINTENANCE



Did you know that heating and cooling your home can make up half of your energy costs? Heat is a must during the cold months, and below are some tips that will benefit you by helping you control costs while creating comfort.

Check the vents

Make sure the dampers on your heating vents are open and not blocked by furniture or drapes, so the heat can flow freely throughout your home when the cold weather kicks in. While you're at it, vacuum any dust or pet hair from the registers and air returns that may have collected throughout the spring and summer to ensure your furnace runs efficiently.

Roll out the rugs

Instead of cranking up the heat when your bare floors are chilly in the winter, lay down an area rug. Rugs trap heat more efficiently than hardwood floors, giving the heating system in your home a rest — which means you get lower energy bills, a beautiful home, and warm feet!

Set your water heater to the right temperature

Do you know the temperature setting of your water heater? A water heater set to 140 degrees or higher can waste \$36–61 each year. Turn yours down to 120 degrees to save energy without giving up those warm, relaxing showers.

Seal air leaks

Heat from your home can escape and cold air from outside can creep in through any spaces around your doors and windows. Sealing with caulk or weather stripping before the winter weather arrives can save you up to 10% on your energy bill.

Upgrade old appliances

Upgrade your appliances to the most energy-efficient options. Look for ENERGY STAR® certified labels and ensure the size of the appliance matches your needs. When purchasing new appliances, be sure to use the Ameren Illinois Efficient Choice Tool at [AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/EfficientChoice](https://www.AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/EfficientChoice) to assist you in your purchase of energy-efficient appliances.

Install a smart thermostat

Weather can be unpredictable in Illinois, but installing a smart thermostat can help balance it out. A smart thermostat provides many benefits and can simplify your life while saving you energy. Smart thermostats can learn your schedule and automatically lower and raise your home's temperature while you come and go. A smart thermostat can also be controlled through your smartphone. Eligible residential Ameren Illinois customers can take advantage of a \$100 rebate on ENERGY STAR smart thermostat devices.



SPRING AND SUMMER HOME MAINTENANCE

With these free-to-low cost energy-saving tips, you'll be able to reduce your energy use, making the transition from winter to the warmer months even more enjoyable. These tips and best practices, to shelter your home from the heat, will keep your cooling costs under control.

Inspect the air conditioning unit

Remove debris from around the cooling unit and change the filters. Spring is also the ideal time to schedule a professional HVAC tune-up.

Circulate air with ceiling fans

When your air conditioner is in use, a ceiling fan allows you to raise the thermostat about four degrees while still providing the same level of comfort. Be sure to turn those fans off when you leave the room — fans cool people, not rooms.

Open the windows

With the welcoming feeling of fresh spring breezes, you might be inclined to do this regardless. Opening the windows is also an effective way to naturally aerate your home and may improve indoor air quality. Take this opportunity to wipe down the interior of the window sills as they have most likely collected dust, dirt, and mold over the winter months.

Perform routine home safety checks

Change the batteries in smoke detectors, make sure fire extinguishers are still intact with the needle in the green zone, and check that exhaust fans are working properly. Immediately replace any device that is not working.

Clean the furnace

The furnace worked overtime during the winter months, so make sure you clean the filter system, blower, and motor. If you are not comfortable doing it yourself, call a professional.

Plant trees outside for shade

Plant deciduous trees on the south-facing side of your home to provide shade in the spring and summer. When the trees lose their leaves, the sun will shine through and warm your house in the fall and winter.

Switch ceiling fans

If you changed the direction of your ceiling fans to go clockwise during the winter, it's time to switch them back. When your fan rotates counter-clockwise, it creates a downward flow of air so you feel cooler. Simply flip the switch (usually located at the base of your ceiling fan) to help lower your energy bill.



ADVANCED POWER STRIPS

What is an advanced power strip?

Ideal for TV and PC set-ups, an advanced power strip (APS) reduces the amount of standby power electronics waste, saving you energy and money.

What is standby power?

Most electronics continue to draw power even after they are turned off. Standby power is wasted electrical energy consumed by plugged-in electronics when they are switched off or in standby mode. For some electronics, this energy represents a substantial portion of their annual energy use. Overall, standby power accounts for an estimated 6% of total U.S. household electric use each year.

Benefits of advanced power strips

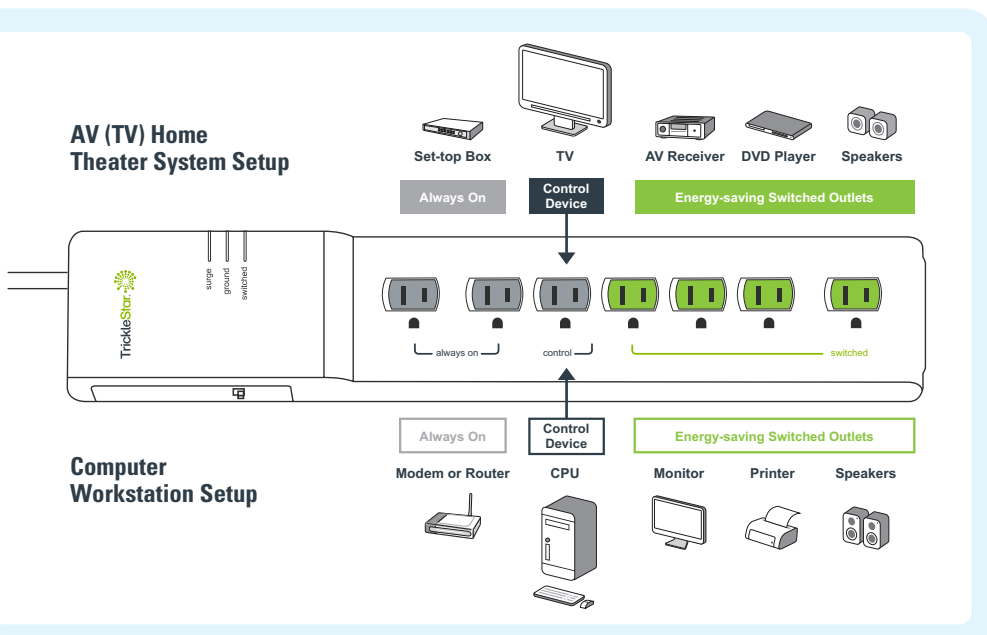
- » Reduces energy waste, resulting in lower energy bills
- » Prolongs life of electronics

How it works

When a TV or PC is plugged into the control outlet and turned on, the switched outlets will turn on and electronics plugged into them can be used. When a TV or PC is turned off, the electronics plugged into the switched outlets turn off and no longer draw any standby power.

A simple way to remember how to use your advanced power strip:

- Control outlet on = Switched outlets on**
- Control outlet off = Switched outlets off**





ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING



Did you know the average home spends 11% of its energy budget just on lighting? One of the fastest ways to save is by making the switch to ENERGY STAR certified LED specialty light bulbs. They use up to 80% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than conventional incandescent lighting. Ameren Illinois offers discounts to its residential electric customers on LED specialty light bulbs through participating retailers.

Here's how to get started on upgrading your lighting to save energy and money!

Step One: Plan

Take inventory of the light fixtures in your home with the highest usage, such as:

- » Kitchen ceiling light
- » Living or family room table and floor lamps
- » Outdoor porch or post lamps

Step Two: Purchase

Buy LEDs at deep discounts using a participating retailer or visit the Ameren Illinois Online Marketplace at AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Marketplace.

		BULB TYPES			
TABLE OR FLOOR LAMPS		 STANDARD			
PENDANT FIXTURES		 STANDARD	 GLOBE	 MR16	 CANDLE
CEILING FIXTURES		 STANDARD	 CANDLE		
CEILING FANS		 STANDARD	 CANDLE		
WALL SCONCES		 STANDARD	 GLOBE	 CANDLE	
RECESSED CANS		 MR16	 SPOT	 FLOOD	
ACCENT LIGHTING		 MR16	 SPOT		



Did you know...

According to ENERGY STAR, nearly **60%** of the light bulb sockets in the United States still contain inefficient bulbs.



SMART THERMOSTATS

What is a smart thermostat?

Smart thermostats are both internet-enabled and learning capable. What makes them “smart” is their ability to learn your preferences and adjust your home’s temperature based on if you are home or away. Internet connectivity allows you to control your smart thermostat from anywhere using your smart device.

What are the benefits of a smart thermostat?

✔ Save energy

Smart thermostats save money by enabling the use of energy-saving settings. Allowing the smart thermostat to manage your home’s climate will help you save on energy costs. Some models notify you of energy-saving behaviors and provide tips in easy-to-read monthly energy reports to help you achieve even better energy savings.

✔ Monitor your home

With a smart thermostat, you can easily check the companion app from anywhere to see if your air conditioning or heat is running and at what temperature. As long as you have your smart device handy, you can adjust your thermostat from anywhere.

✔ Eliminate errors

Smart thermostats can learn your schedule and preferences. Allowing the thermostat to control lowering and raising the temperature while you come and go makes it easy to be energy efficient. Some smart thermostat models can even detect your presence or absence and adjust the temperature so you don’t have to worry about leaving the air conditioner or furnace running on high while you are away.

Visit AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Smart to find out how to purchase a smart thermostat for your home.



Did you know...

If everyone used an ENERGY STAR certified smart thermostat, savings would grow to **56 trillion BTUs of energy and \$740 million dollars per year**, offsetting **13 billion pounds** of annual greenhouse gas emissions!



AMEREN ILLINOIS EFFICIENT CHOICE TOOL

The Ameren Illinois Efficient Choice tool can help customers easily select an energy-efficient product or appliance. You can find information, including a product's energy efficiency rating, read customer reviews, and browse price comparisons for various brands, all in one place.

Get help with purchasing decisions to find the right product for you. The Efficient Choice Tool analyzes product data daily across major retailers to provide you with recommendations such as:

- » Best Overall Rating
- » Lowest Price
- » Most Efficient

Appliances listed on the free tool include:

- » Air Purifiers
- » Air Conditioners
- » Smart Home Technology
- » Dehumidifiers
- » Dishwashers
- » Dryers
- » Evaporative Coolers
- » Light Bulbs
- » Freezers
- » Monitors
- » Pool Pumps
- » Advanced Power Strips
- » Projectors
- » Refrigerators
- » Tablets
- » Televisions
- » Sound Bars
- » Thermostats
- » Video Game Consoles
- » Water Heaters
- » And more!

Taking efficiency into consideration on new purchases can save you both energy and money over time. For additional information, visit AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/EfficientChoice.