

# Energy Matters

## Get A Big Bang For Your Energy-Efficient Dollar

(NAPSA)—There's a vast array of energy-saving "to dos." These helpful tips can guide you:

**Start with the Right Caulk—Silicone: The Long-Lasting Weatherization Solution.** According to the U.S. Department of Energy, you can save 10 percent or more on your energy bill by air sealing. However, not all caulk provides energy savings over time. One hundred percent silicone caulk does. Leaks frequently occur in and around homes in places where extreme temperature fluctuations, moisture, humidity and damaging UV rays take their toll. Unlike acrylic caulk, which is vulnerable to these elements and can break down over time, silicone remains permanently flexible, shrinkproof, crack-proof and waterproof. In fact, 100 percent silicone remains unaffected by all weather and temperature conditions, so it helps prevent gaps and cracks, through which energy dollars can pass, from reforming. Look for GE Silicone II Window & Door or GE Silicone II W/D Supreme. If you need to paint the area, try new Groov by GE, which performs and lasts like a silicone and is easy to apply and paint like an acrylic.

**Install Programmable Thermostats in the Proper Location.** According to energystar.gov, you can save about \$180 a year by properly setting and maintaining programmable thermostat units.



**Caulk can help you shut the door on wasting energy and money while keeping comfort in.**

But be sure the unit is mounted on an interior wall away from heating or cooling vents or other sources of heat or drafts. A false reading as a result of cool drafts or excessive warm air can lead to unnecessary energy consumption.

**CFLs: Today's New Styles Are Brighter.** The average CFL lightbulb will save you about \$30 over its lifetime and pay for itself in about six months, according to energystar.gov. Want to be more energy efficient but find that the light is too dim? Try a brighter bulb—CFL equivalencies are based on the overall light output of the bulbs. Because CFL light appears diffuse, however, the same output isn't always enough.

For more information on how to weatherize your home, visit [www.caulkandsave.com](http://www.caulkandsave.com).