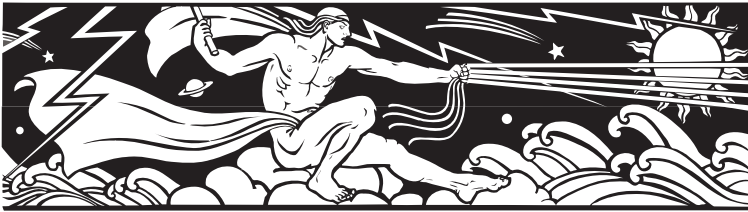


The Agency  
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E • N • E • R • G • Y



S T A T E O F N E B R A S K A

The Energy Office logo, at left, is a copy of a mosaic by Hildreth M. Meiere, entitled "Genius of Creative Energy." The figure is a mythical symbol who controls the sun, moon, stars and four winds with his reins. The mosaic is found on the second floor just inside the north doors of the Nebraska State Capitol building in Lincoln.

Nebraska Energy Office      Phone: 402-471-2867  
Box 59085                      Fax: 402-471-3064  
1111 "O" Street, Suite 223      Email: [energy@mail.state.ne.us](mailto:energy@mail.state.ne.us)  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5085      Web Site: [www.nol.org/home/NEO](http://www.nol.org/home/NEO)

More information about Home Weatherization Services  
can be found at

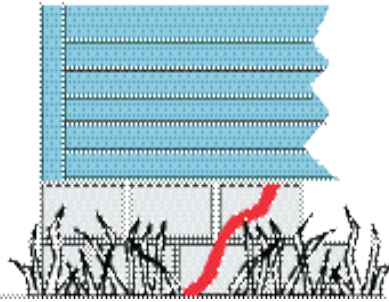
<http://www.nol.org/home/NEO/wx/wxindex.htm>

This material was prepared with the support of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Grant No. DE-FG48-97R802005,A011 and Oil Overcharge Escrow Funds. However, any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of DOE.

You can achieve...  
Even More Dollar and  
Energy Savings  
from the recent  
improvements made on  
your home.



# If these improvements were made on your home,

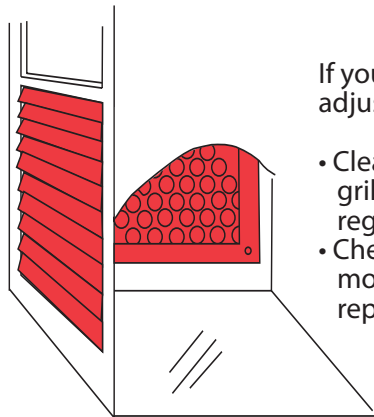
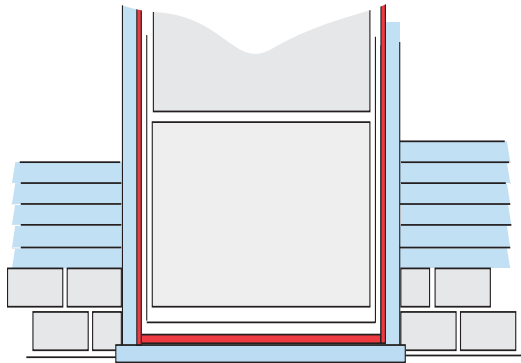


If cracks were sealed with caulking:

- Know where caulking was applied.
- Check the caulking every few months for cracks or shrinkage.
- Re-apply caulking if the caulking shrinks or cracks appear.

If weatherstripping was applied around doors and windows:

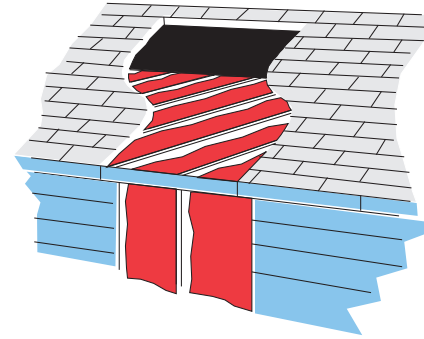
- Know where weatherstripping was applied.
- Check the weatherstripping every few months to see if it has come loose.
- Reattach any loose weatherstripping.



If your furnace was repaired or adjusted, keep it clean.

- Clean dust and lint from grills and outlets regularly.
- Check filters every two months, cleaning or replacing them when dirty.

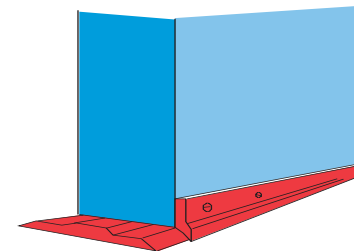
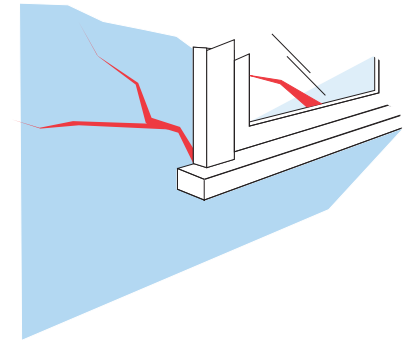
# here's how to realize the most dollar and energy savings.



If insulation was added to the roof, sidewalls or below the floor, you need to keep it dry.

- Keep attic vents open.
- Check the attic during rain and cold for leaks or frost.
- Repair the roof if any leaks develop.
- Keep the attic hatch or door to the living areas of the house closed tightly.
- Do not stack anything on the insulation.
- Do not walk on the insulation.
- Do not move the insulation.

If holes in walls or broken windows were repaired, and if new holes appear or windows are broken, repair them immediately.

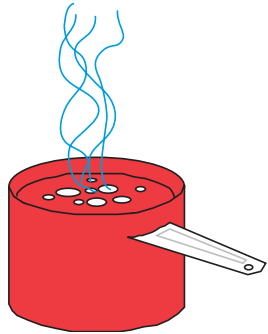


If door thresholds or door sweeps were adjusted, readjust them as necessary.

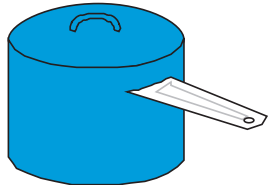
Under the Weatherization Assistance Program, a home may receive free home energy saving improvements only once. The federal government prohibits the local agency or contractor who made the home improvements from making additional improvements to the property. With proper care, the improvements like caulking, weatherstripping and insulation should last from five to twenty years.

# If moisture becomes a problem in your home...

Liquids simmering in open pots make it worse.

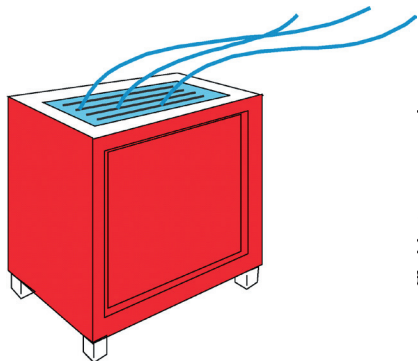
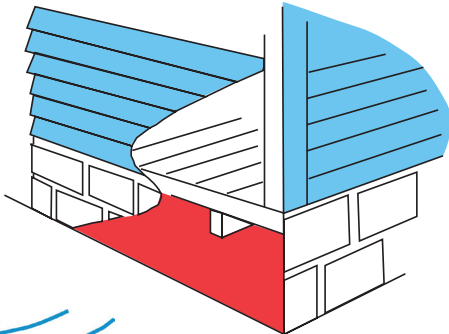


- Cook in pots with tight-fitting lids.
- Cook foods as quickly as possible.
- Use a vent fan if you have one.



Bare ground under the floor makes it worse.

- Use heavy plastic as a vapor barrier on the ground under the structure.

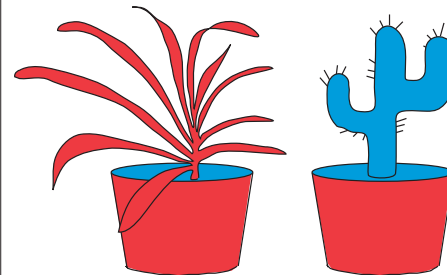
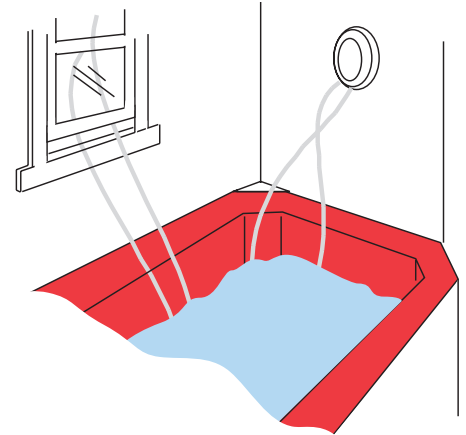


A humidifier makes it worse.

If you have a humidifier, it should be set at the lowest practical setting.

Long showers or baths add excess moisture to the air.

- Use an exhaust fan when bathing, or crack the bathroom window, closing it as soon as the moisture disappears.

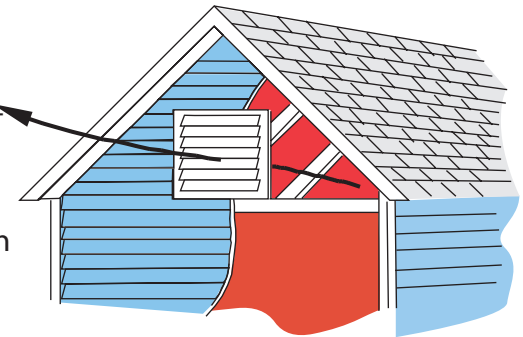


It makes it worse when keeping plants inside.


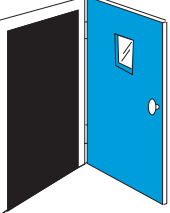
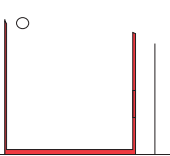
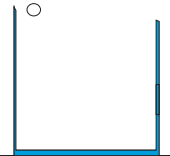
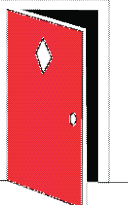
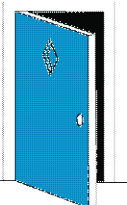
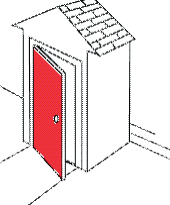
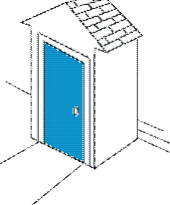
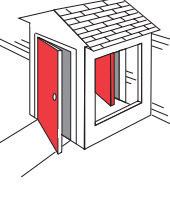
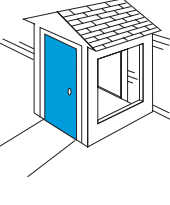
- Keep only winter plants that don't need much water like cactus and succulents.

Attic ventilation may be inadequate. Moisture condenses which reduces the effectiveness of the insulation and could cause moisture damage to wood structures.

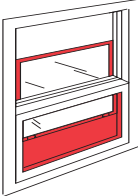
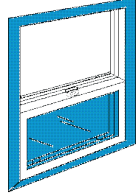
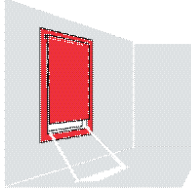
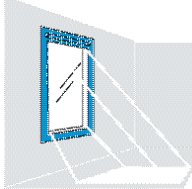
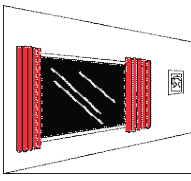
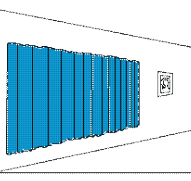
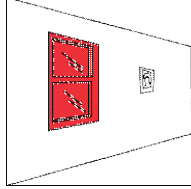
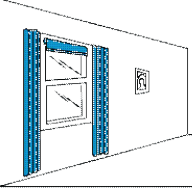
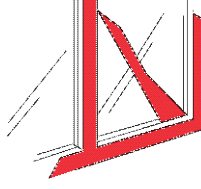
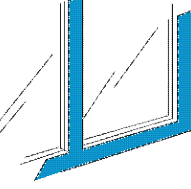
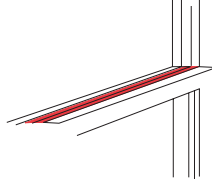
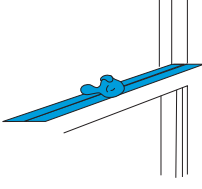
- Keep attic vents open all the time — and not blocked by anything inside.



# Doors in cold weather...

<b>WASTE</b> your money if you...	<b>SAVE</b> your money if you...
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have door hinges that are loose.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tighten the door hinges so the door fits snugly.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a crack at the bottom and sides of the door — even one to a closed off, cold room.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjust or install door weatherstripping or thresholds.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a thin, uninsulated outside door.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace it with a solid core or thermal door.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open the outside door often, or leave it open longer than necessary.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open and close the door quickly and the least number of times possible.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave a door to an enclosed porch entry open or leave both doors open at the same time.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep both doors closed. Be sure there is light to see by — just so the inside door isn't left open for lighting.</li> </ul>

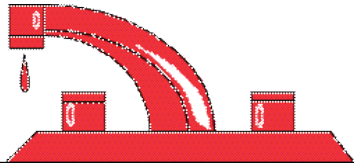
# Windows in cold weather...

<b>WASTE</b> your money if you...	<b>SAVE</b> your money if you...
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave the storm window open in cold weather.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower the storm window when heating or cooling your home.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shut out the sunshine, especially on the south.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open the shades and curtains on sunny days to let the sun help warm the house.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave shades and curtains open at night.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close shades and curtains at night.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have no covering for windows; especially those facing the north.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hang up shades, heavy curtains or install shutters.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a broken or cracked window.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace a broken or cracked window with clear plastic or new glass.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a space between window sashes.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lock your windows tightly to close up the space between the window sashes.</li> </ul>

# When you are using hot water...

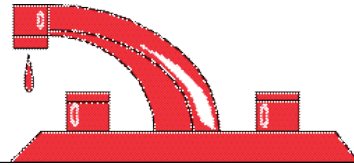
## IT WASTES your money if...

- A hot water faucet is leaking



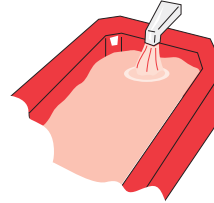
## IT SAVES your money if you...

- Fix leaky faucets. You may save up to 1,000 gallons of hot water a year.



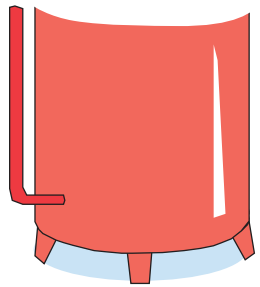
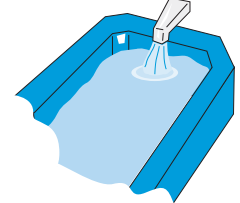
## IT WASTES your money if...

- Baths are taken in full tubs.

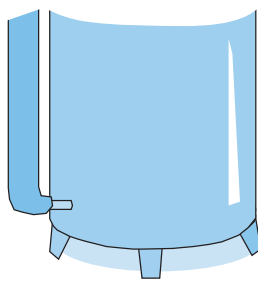


## IT SAVES your money if you...

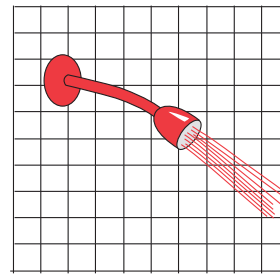
- Fill the bath tub only 1/4 full.



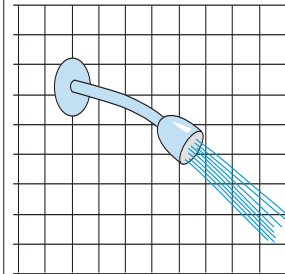
- A hot water tank and water lines in an unheated area are bare.



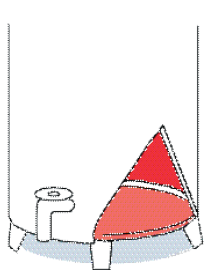
- Insulate the hot water tank and water lines. (consult your electric or gas company first)



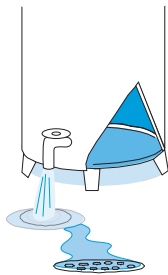
- Long showers are taken.



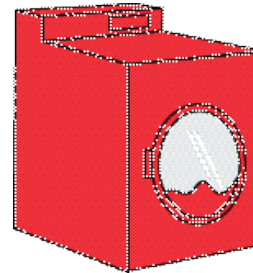
- Take short showers. Turn off while soaping. Install flow restrictor.



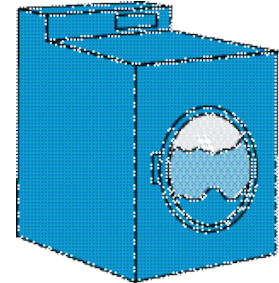
- Sediment collects in the bottom of the hot water tank.



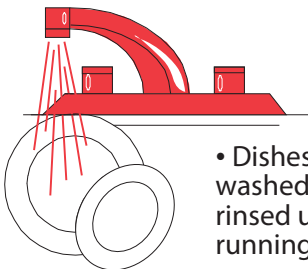
- Drain two gallons from the hot water tank at least once a year.



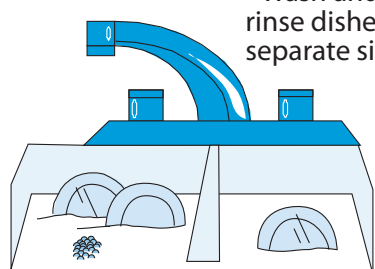
- Just a few clothes are washed and HOT water is used.



- Wash full loads and use COLD water.



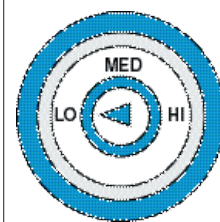
- Dishes are washed or rinsed under running water.



- Wash and rinse dishes in separate sinks.

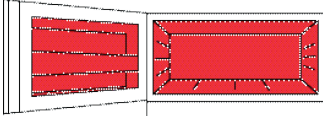
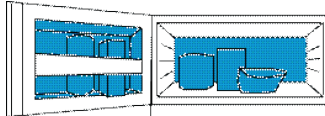
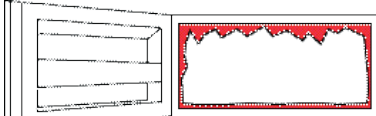
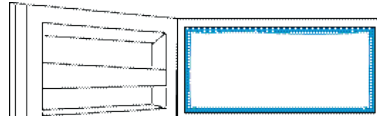
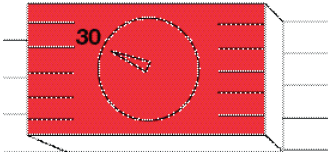
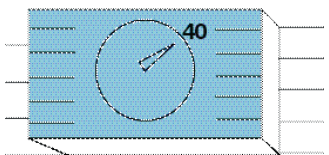
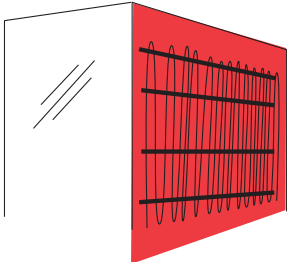
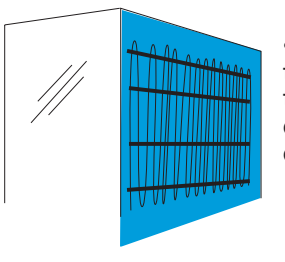


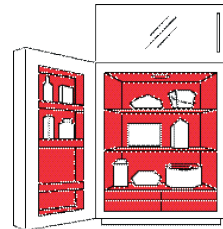
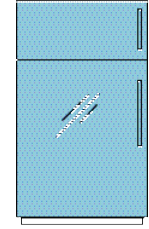
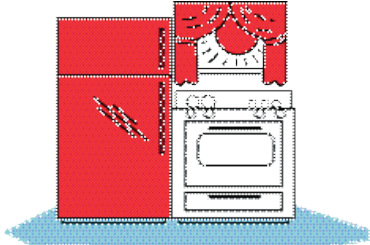
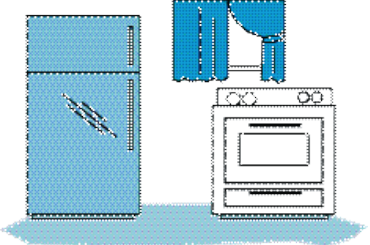
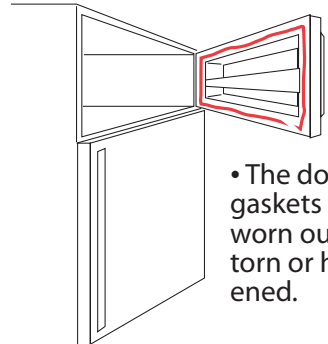
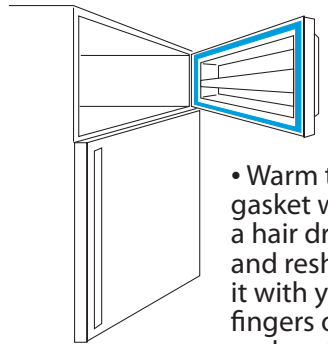
- The hot water tank is set on 170° or "high" setting.



- Keep the thermostat at 125° or "Low" setting. (If you have a dishwasher, use 140° or "Medium" setting.)

# When you have a refrigerator...

<p><b>IT WASTES your money if...</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The freezer compartment is empty.</li> </ul>	<p><b>IT SAVES your money if you ...</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the freezer at least half full, even if you add containers of water.</li> </ul>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The frost gets too thick.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defrost when frost is 1/4 inch thick.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is set too cold. (check it with a thermometer.)</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set it to cool at about 40°. Set the freezer at 0° or "Medium" setting.</li> </ul> 
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The motor and coils get dusty.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the motor and coils clean.</li> </ul>

<p><b>IT WASTES your money if...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You keep the door open a long time.</li> </ul> 	<p><b>IT SAVES your money if you ...</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open and close the door quickly.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is next to a stove, heater or in direct sunlight.</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move it away from heat.</li> </ul> 
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The door gaskets are worn out, torn or hardened.</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warm the gasket with a hair drier and reshape it with your fingers or replace it.</li> </ul>