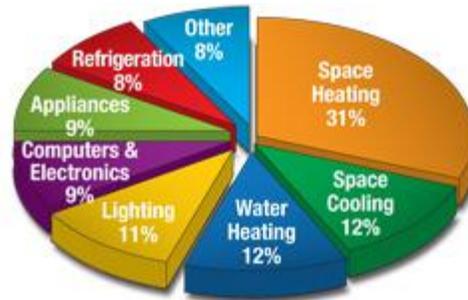


## Methods for Reducing Home Energy Usage

In a typical home, energy is consumed in the areas shown in the pie chart (shown as a percentage of the total household energy use):



Source: [U.S. Department of Energy](http://www.energy.gov)

After the home has been constructed to be as energy efficient as possible, the homeowner can continue to influence the total energy usage through the following methods and additional methods described on this Department of Energy booklet [“Tips for Saving Money & Energy at Home”](#).

### Space Heating and Cooling

- Select energy-efficient products when you buy new heating and cooling equipment. Check the [EnergyStar website](http://www.energystar.gov) for the latest information on specific system requirements. In general, however:
  - For furnaces, look for high Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) ratings. The national minimum is 78% AFUE, but there are ENERGY STAR models on the market that exceed 90% AFUE.
  - For air conditioners, look for a high Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER). The current minimum is 13 SEER for central air conditioners. ENERGY STAR models are 14 SEER or more.
- Have routine (e.g., annual) maintenance performed on the HVAC system to assure it is operating optimally.
- Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and as high as is comfortable in the summer.

### Water Heating

- Use less hotwater by installing aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads. Less hotwater can be also be used by locating the taps within 30 ft of the storage tank
- Insulate your hot-water storage tank
- Lower the thermostat on your water heater; water heaters sometimes come from the factory with high temperature settings, but a setting of 120°F provides comfortable hot water for most uses
- Insulate the first 6 feet of the hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater

### Lighting

- Install EnergyStar Compact Fluorescent Lighting (CFL) which are available in sizes and shapes to fit in almost any fixture

### Appliances

- When you shop for a new appliance (e.g., dishwasher, refrigerator, clothes dryer, look for the ENERGY STAR label. ENERGY STAR products usually exceed minimum federal standards by a substantial amount.