

# Going on vacation?

Not all vacations are in the summer...



If you are on vacation during cold weather, you should leave on enough heat in your home to keep your water pipes from freezing. You can set your thermostat as low as 50 degrees. If you have plants, however, you may want to turn the thermostat down to only 60 degrees.



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# Give your energy use a break, too.

While you are on vacation, the appliances in your home will continue to do their jobs. You can take steps, however, to lower your energy use while you are gone. Follow these pointers to save money next time you leave home.

## As you pack...

- ✓ Set your thermostat on your air conditioning system at 80 to 85 degrees.
- ✓ If you have a gas water heater, turn the thermostat to its lowest setting.
- ✓ If you have an electric water heater, you can turn it off at the circuit breaker panel.
- ✓ Fix all water leaks. One drip per second wastes 192 gallons of water a month – even when you are at home. A leaking toilet, on the other hand, slurps up to 2,000 to 3,000 gallons of wasted water in a month.
- ✓ Close your blinds and drapes on the south and west side of your home to keep the hot sun out.
- ✓ Turn off and/or unplug all unnecessary lights and appliances, such as an instant-on TV, which uses electricity when not in use.
- ✓ Keep your pilot lights on if you have natural gas. A buildup could occur if someone accidentally turns on the range before re-lighting the pilot lights.
- ✓ In the name of safety, use timers to turn on and off selected lights and even a radio so it appears that someone is at home. Make arrangements for your mail and newspapers to be stopped or collected by a friend. Notify a neighbor about your plans.



## Your utility bill...

- ✓ You will continue to use energy while you are gone. Read your gas and electric meters before you go and when you come back to know how much energy you did use. When you get your bill, look at the date that shows when we read your meter. It's possible that we read your meter while you were gone and your lower energy use will be in two billing cycles.
- ✓ If you will be gone an extended time, give our customer service department a call to make arrangements for your bill to avoid the possibility of a late payment charge.

