

Kitchen Corner

Cutting Energy Costs In The Kitchen

(NAPSA)—Being sure stoves and other kitchen appliances are energy efficient could save you some dough.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) reports that about 20 percent of a household's energy bill goes to pay for appliances. Considering that energy rates are predicted to rise as much as 20 percent over the next year, it may be particularly important to be sure appliances run efficiently. Fortunately, some simple steps may help. Try these tips:

Dishwashers

The DOE says that most of the energy used by a dishwasher goes toward heating water. Remember to check your dishwasher's manual to see how hot the manufacturer recommends water to be. You may have the water temperature set too high, and that could be costing you money. Also, only run the dishwasher when it is full and be sure to let your dishes air dry, rather than using the dishwasher's dry cycle.

Stoves And Ranges

Replacing old drip pans with new ones could reduce energy costs. For instance, Range Kleen Drip Pans have been shown to save \$50 a year in energy costs or \$1,000 over the life of the average stove. The drip pans reflect heat from the burner or coil and speed up cooking time. It's also important to be sure your oven's internal thermostat is accurate. If it's not, your oven may be get-



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ting hotter than need be—and using more energy than is necessary.

Refrigerators And Freezers

Be certain your refrigerator and freezer doors seal tightly. The Department of Energy suggests testing the doors by closing them over paper. The paper should be half in the appliance and half out. If you can pull the paper out easily, it may be time to adjust the door latch or replace the seal. Also, remember to cover all liquids and wrap all food stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered items can release moisture that makes the compressor work harder and use more energy.

For more information, call 1-888-391-2020 and mention the phrase, "kitchen corner." You can also visit www.rangekleen.com.