

# The Edmonton Sun

## SAVE MONEY THIS SUMMER

Sunday, June 11, 2006  
Page: HO14  
Section: Homes

Vacationers beware! Your home can be an attractive target for thieves while you are on vacation. Keeping a few indoor and outdoor lights on when you are away can give your home a lived-in appearance without having a significant impact on your bill.

"We recognize the importance of keeping your home safe while on vacation," says Mark Antonuk, with ATCO EnergySense. "A few simple changes can keep your home safe and go a long way towards lowering your energy consumption costs. Plus, conserving even a small amount of energy around the home helps lower greenhouse gas emissions."

To reduce energy consumption and shave a few dollars off your power bill, try using efficient methods of household lighting. There are numerous energy efficient lighting products made available to homeowners. Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs in fixtures that are used for extended periods of time. Compact fluorescent bulbs use 75% less electricity and last 10 times longer. The extra money you spend will be more than returned through energy cost savings. When making your purchase, check the package for the life hours of the bulb.

Take a look at your lighting and determine what rooms you want to keep lit while you're away and how often you'd like your outdoor lights to be active. "Consider investing in a timer, motion sensor, or low voltage lighting to help save energy and money," says Antonuk.

Portable timers are easy to program. They plug directly into an electrical outlet and allow you to use lamps, to light your vacant home.

Self-programming light timers are hardwired into your electrical system (do not use these timers with fluorescent or low voltage halogen lights). They memorize the sequence of turning lights on and off and replay it. This will keep the lighting active, decreasing the likelihood of a home invasion.

For outdoor lighting consider outdoor motion sensor lights; they detect motion and illuminate the outside of the home for a pre-programmed amount of time. They can also be combined with a photocell to turn on at dusk and off at dawn. Most of these lights cost less than \$20 and save energy by only being on when necessary.

Low voltage outdoor lighting is easy to install and relocate while enhancing the look and feel of your property.

© 2006 Sun Media Corporation. All rights reserved.