



MARK GOLDADE PERSONAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION



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## Energy Efficiency Tips for Manitoba Homes

### Introduction:

Improving your home's energy efficiency can save you money on utility bills and reduce your environmental impact. In Manitoba, where extreme temperatures in winter and summer are common, energy efficiency is especially important. Here are practical tips to make your home more energy-efficient, tailored to the Winnipeg market.

### Heating and Cooling:

#### 1. Insulate Your Home:

- **Why:** Proper insulation helps maintain a consistent indoor temperature, reducing the need for heating and cooling.

- **How:** Insulate your attic, walls, and floors. Use weatherstripping around doors and windows to prevent drafts. In Winnipeg's cold winters, consider upgrading to high R-value insulation for better performance.

## **2. Install a Programmable Thermostat:**

- **Why:** Programmable thermostats can automatically adjust the temperature based on your schedule, saving energy when you're not home.
- **How:** Set the thermostat to lower temperatures at night and during the day when the house is empty. In summer, set it to increase the temperature when you're away.

## **3. Use Energy-Efficient Windows:**

- **Why:** Windows can be a major source of heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer.
- **How:** Install double- or triple-pane windows with low-emissivity (low-E) coatings to improve insulation. Use heavy drapes or thermal blinds to add an extra layer of insulation.

## **4. Maintain Your HVAC System:**

- **Why:** Regular maintenance ensures your heating and cooling systems operate efficiently.
- **How:** Replace filters every 1-3 months and have your system professionally serviced annually. In Winnipeg, it's crucial to have your furnace and air conditioner checked before winter and summer.

## **Lighting:**

### **1. Use LED Bulbs:**

- **Why:** LED bulbs use up to 80% less energy than incandescent bulbs and last longer.
- **How:** Replace incandescent and CFL bulbs with LEDs in all your fixtures. Choose LEDs with the ENERGY STAR label for the best efficiency.

### **2. Install Dimmer Switches and Motion Sensors:**

- **Why:** Dimmers allow you to reduce light levels and save energy, while motion sensors ensure lights are only on when needed.
- **How:** Install dimmer switches in frequently used rooms and motion sensors in hallways, bathrooms, and outdoor areas.

## **Water Heating:**

### **1. Insulate Your Water Heater:**

- **Why:** Insulating your water heater reduces heat loss and saves energy.
- **How:** Use an insulating blanket for older water heaters. Insulate hot water pipes to retain heat longer.

### **2. Lower the Water Heater Temperature:**

- **Why:** Reducing the temperature setting can save energy without compromising comfort.

- **How:** Set your water heater to 120°F (49°C). This temperature is sufficient for most household needs.

### **3. Install Low-Flow Fixtures:**

- **Why:** Low-flow showerheads and faucets reduce water usage, saving both water and energy.
- **How:** Replace existing fixtures with low-flow models. Look for products with the WaterSense label.

## **Appliances:**

### **1. Choose ENERGY STAR Appliances:**

- **Why:** ENERGY STAR-rated appliances are designed to use less energy without sacrificing performance.
- **How:** When replacing old appliances, choose ENERGY STAR models for refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, and dryers.

### **2. Unplug Electronics When Not in Use:**

- **Why:** Many electronics consume energy even when turned off, known as phantom or standby power.
- **How:** Use power strips to easily turn off multiple devices at once. Unplug chargers and small appliances when not in use.

## **Renewable Energy:**

## 1. Consider Solar Panels:

- **Why:** Solar panels can reduce your reliance on grid electricity and lower your utility bills.
- **How:** Assess your roof's suitability for solar panels and explore government incentives for installation in Manitoba. Even with Winnipeg's cold winters, solar panels can be effective year-round.

## 2. Use a Solar Water Heater:

- **Why:** Solar water heaters use the sun's energy to heat water, reducing the need for gas or electric water heating.
- **How:** Install a solar water heating system that meets your household's hot water needs. Ensure it is winterized to handle Manitoba's cold temperatures.

## General Tips:

### 1. Seal Leaks:

- **Why:** Sealing leaks around your home prevents heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer.
- **How:** Use caulk or weatherstripping to seal gaps around windows, doors, and other openings. Pay special attention to the basement and attic.

### 2. Optimize Landscaping:

- **Why:** Landscaping can help with energy efficiency by providing shade in summer and wind protection in winter.

- **How:** Plant deciduous trees on the south and west sides of your home for summer shade. Use evergreen trees and shrubs as windbreaks on the north and west sides.

### **3. Use Ceiling Fans:**

- **Why:** Ceiling fans help circulate air, reducing the need for heating and cooling.
- **How:** In summer, set the fan to rotate counterclockwise to create a cooling breeze. In winter, set it to rotate clockwise to push warm air down.

### **4. Conduct an Energy Audit:**

- **Why:** An energy audit identifies areas where your home can be more energy-efficient.
- **How:** Hire a professional energy auditor or use a DIY energy audit tool to assess your home's energy usage and recommend improvements.

#### **Contact Information:**

For more personalized assistance, contact me at:

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