

## Other Energy-Saving Considerations

- Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFL) use 75 percent less energy and last 10 times longer than a regular incandescent bulb. (A 15-watt CFL bulb is equivalent to a standard 60-watt incandescent bulb.)
- Cut off power to outdoor receptacles.
- Be sure fireplace dampers and glass doors are closed.

## Checklist

(When away for several weeks to months)

### Summer

- ❑ Adjust thermostat to 80EF.
- ❑ Turn off the water heater at the breaker, unless timer is attached.
- ❑ Turn off water at the meter (after turning off the hot water).
- ❑ Turn refrigerator thermostat up or off if empty.
- ❑ Turn off the lights. *(Use a timer to turn lights on and off at night.)*
- ❑ Unplug portable appliances, television and computers. *(For details on surge protection, visit our web site.)*

### Winter

- ❑ Adjust thermostat to 50EF.
- ❑ Turn water heater off at the breaker, unless timer is attached.
- ❑ Turn refrigerator thermostat setting up or off if empty.
- ❑ Turn off the lights. *(Use a timer to turn lights on and off at night.)*
- ❑ Unplug portable appliances, television and computers. *(For details on surge protection, visit our web site.)*

The energy you save will depend on the steps you take before you leave, how long you're gone and how much energy you use when you return. Before you leave, take one last look to make sure everything is turned off. And, if you leave pets behind, arrange to have them cared for by a friend or a neighbor, and then have a great vacation.

**Carolina Forest**  
Towne Center  
3990 River Oaks Drive  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29579  
(843) 946-5950

**Conway**  
100 Elm Street  
Conway, SC 29526-5115  
(843) 248-5755

**Garden City**  
900 Inlet Square Drive  
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576-7812  
(843) 651-1598

**Loris**  
3701 Walnut Street  
Loris, SC 29569-0575  
(843) 756-5541

**Moncks Corner**  
One Riverwood Drive  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
(843) 761-4060

**Myrtle Beach**  
1703 Oak Street  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577-3528  
(843) 448-2411

**North Myrtle Beach**  
1000 2nd Avenue North  
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582-3094  
(843) 249-3505


**Pawleys Island**  
126 Tiller Drive  
Pawleys Island, SC 29585-0570  
(843) 237-9222

**St. Stephen**  
1172 Main Street  
St. Stephen, SC 29479-0516  
(843) 567-3346

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Are you  
**Saving  
Energy**  
While You Are Away?



*Santee Cooper wants to help you save energy while you're away, whether you are a year-round resident on vacation or a seasonal customer closing your home for the winter. A short or prolonged absence requires planning ahead. If you live in a single-family home, mobile home or a multi-family structure such as a townhouse or condominium, you'll want to take precautions to protect your home and at the same time reduce energy consumption to a minimum while away.*

## Heating and Cooling Equipment

### Heat Pump

- Change filters
- Adjust thermostat position to 50EF in Winter or 80EF in Summer.

### Electric Furnace

- Change filters.
- Turn the furnace off at the thermostat and/or main breaker, or adjust thermostat to 50EF to keep pipes from freezing. *(The furnace is a large user of energy and even on the lowest thermostat setting it will use a considerable amount of electricity.)*

### Central Air Conditioning

- Change filters.
- Adjust thermostat to 80EF in Summer.

### Room Air Conditioner

- Clean the filter.
- Unplug the unit.
- Place a protective cover over the outside portion of the unit. *(When you return, be sure to remove the cover from the unit before operating.)*

## Appliances

### Refrigerator-Freezer

- Clean thoroughly.
- Turn refrigerator thermostat up or off if empty. *(If you prefer to leave the refrigerator on, remember to turn the ice maker manual switch to the "off" position and be sure to shut off the water supply to the ice maker, and turn the refrigerator controls to the warmest setting.)*
- If empty, leave the door open to prevent growth of odor-causing mildew and bacteria.
- Vacuum the condenser coil.
- A full refrigerator (80 percent capacity) or freezer is more efficient to keep cold than a half empty refrigerator or freezer.
- Recycle older or second refrigerators or freezers.

### Clothes Washer (any time of year)

- Turn the water supply off.
- Disconnect hoses.
- Drain any water from them.

### Clothes Dryer

- Clean the lint screen or wash the lint screen in warm sudsy water.
- Seal the dryer exhaust vent. *(Be sure to remove vent cover before using.)*

### Water Heater

- Turn the water heater off at the breaker any time you are away for one week or more, unless a timer is attached. If a timer is attached, place timer in vacation mode. *(A water heater left on will not prevent the plumbing from freezing, but will use energy to keep the water at the thermostat setting. Check the manufacturer's use and care booklet for information about draining the water heater.)*
- Turn off water supply to water heater.

**Upon returning home, and before turning the water heater back on or using the dishwasher or washing machine:**

- Open the hot water faucets in the home and allow the water to run for a couple of minutes. *(This will release any accumulated air or gas trapped in the water system.)*



## Precautions to Consider

### Water Supply

- Proper precautions should be taken to prevent freezing of plumbing and appliances. If you are unsure of the proper manner to drain or protect your plumbing and appliances from freeze damage, consult your plumber or other qualified service technician. To safeguard your plumbing from freezing, leave your heating system on a lower thermostat setting such as 50 to 55EF.

### Circuit Breakers

- Be sure to label your breakers to insure you are turning off the proper equipment.