

## Back to School: The ABCs of conservation

Date : 07/27/2018

School time is creeping up on you once again. The children won't be hanging out at home all day anymore; it will be time to attend classes, hit the books and participate in all those school activities. Of course, that means that the house will be empty all day while you're at work. Here are some conservation tips to keep in mind while everyone is out of the house.

### Turn off all lights

If no one is there, is there any reason to keep a light on? If there's no one to benefit from a light, make sure to turn it off. Otherwise, it's just adding more to your monthly bill.

### Low-flow showerhead

Now that everyone is having to pile into the shower every morning, you can do your part to still reduce the amount of water being used. Install a low-flow showerhead to reduce your water consumption. A conventional shower head can use 2.5 gallons of water per minute or more, while a low-flow one uses no more than 2 gallons per minute, but you can find ones that use even less. It's easy to imagine how quickly you can save water with the right equipment.

### Programmable thermostat

With heating and cooling of your home representing the majority of your monthly electrical consumption, you can see some quick savings by adjusting your thermostat when people aren't home. So, you have two options for doing that. You can either turn the thermostat warmer before you leave and then make it cooler when you get home or you can install a programmable thermostat to do it for you. The big advantage of the programmable thermostat over a traditional one is that you can program it so that your home is already at your desired temperature when you get home. Many of the programmable thermostats have apps that work with your phone. That makes it easy to make it warmer if you're going to be a couple of hours late from work or cooler if you got out a little bit early.

### Check for leaks

Now that no one is in the house, it seems like a great idea to check the house for any water leaks. Water leaks can be silent and not show any obvious signs of a problem, but there are things that you can do to check for a leak without calling in a professional. This method for [checking for a water leak with your water meter](#) is easy to do. And don't forget to [check your toilet for a water leak](#) as well.

Have any conservation tips of your own? Send your favorite tips to [rgreenfeld@brownsville-pub.com](mailto:rgreenfeld@brownsville-pub.com). They could be used in future materials produced by BPUB!