

QUICK SUMMER CONSERVATION TIPS

If you're committed to running a greener household all year long, here are some summertime tips to save on energy, keep the heat at bay, and to prepare your home for better energy efficiency this winter:

In the Laundry Room:

- Wash full loads only, but don't overload your machine.
- Adjust the water level to suit the size of your load.
- Use cold water—85 to 90 per cent of energy used to wash clothes goes to heating water.
- Put heavy items through a longer spin cycle in the washer to reduce extra moisture.
- Clean your dryer's lint filter after every use.
- Hang your clothes outside to dry—they'll last longer and smell fresher.



In the Kitchen:

- When possible, use small appliances such as a toaster oven, kettle, or microwave instead of the range—they use less energy.
- Turn the oven off a few minutes before the cooking time is over. The heat remaining in the oven will finish the job.
- Only turn on the dishwasher when it's fully loaded and use the 'energy saver' cycle if it has one.

- Only preheat the oven for baking—and then, only for about seven minutes. Most foods, such as roasts and casseroles, don't need a preheated oven to cook properly.

Other Tips:

- Planting trees on the south and west sides of your home will help lower the temperature.
- Install energy efficient-shower heads, and fix leaky taps. One drop of hot wa-

ter per second for a month adds up to 16 steamy baths.

- Doing renovations and repairs will improve your home's efficiency. Sealing cracks, holes, and gaps in the exterior of your house and windows can help prevent heat loss and conserve energy in winter.

You can learn more about energy conservation at www.enbridgegas.com/energyefficiency.
www.newscanada.com

HOME INSPECTIONS: Protection for buyers and sellers

If you are planning to take advantage of Toronto's hot real estate market, make sure you have a home inspector on your team.

Homeservice Club, which now offers home inspection services, says a home inspection works for both buyer and seller. For buyers, a home inspection provides an objective analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the home and can provide valuable information to be used in negotiating the price. Sellers can use a home inspection as a selling tool and also to make repairs and renovations that will give their home an edge in a competitive market.

A standard home inspector's report will cover the condition of the home's heating system; central air conditioning system (temperature permitting); interior plumbing and electrical systems; the roof, attic and visible insulation; walls, ceilings, floors, windows and doors; the



foundation, basement and structural components.

When hiring a home inspector, there are a few things homeowners can look for to ensure they are hiring a qualified professional:

- Home inspectors are not regulated in Ontario, but qualified individuals will have ASHI (American Society of Home Inspectors), CAHPI (Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors), OAHI (Ontario Association of Home Inspectors), or International As-

sociation of Certified Home Inspectors (IACHI) certifications.

- Ask how long they have been in the business and what their background was before becoming a home inspector.
- Ask if they have insurance.
- Ask if you can attend the inspection.
- Expect a written report that includes details on the main components of the house the type of upkeep it has received and estimates of the costs to do repairs.

Whether you are buying or selling a home, or just want an assessment of your current home, using the services of a qualified home inspector is a prudent investment.

When you call the Club ...

To ensure your job is covered by the Homeservice Club Double Guarantee, please remember the following:

- Make sure a description of your job is written on a Homeservice Club Contract and Invoice.
- All cheques must be made payable to Homeservice Club and given to the Contractor. Or, take advantage of our credit card payment to pay directly with your Visa or Mastercard.



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*All work must be done by Homeservice-authorized contractors. This coupon has no cash value. One coupon per job, per member. Not valid with any other offers or coupons. All orders must be placed and accepted within the specified time frame to qualify for the discount.

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