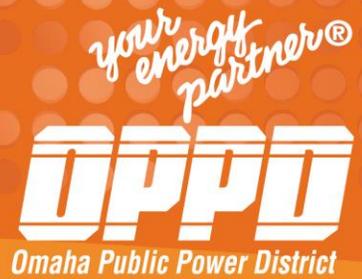


# Heating and Cooling Energy Use

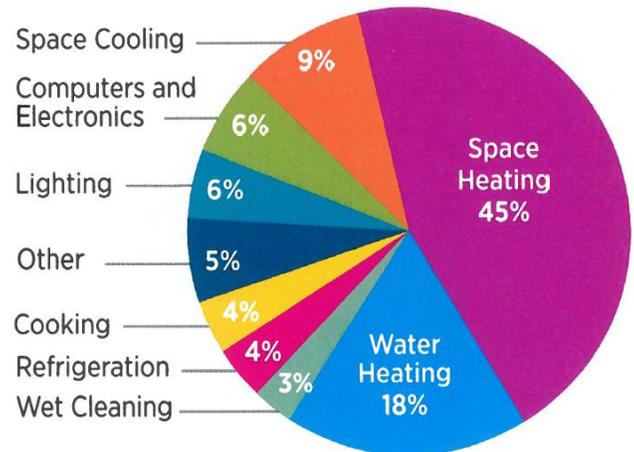


Estimating the amount of energy it takes to heat and cool your home is a difficult task and is dependent on a number of variables that change from one home to the next.

This pie chart from the Department of Energy illustrates that based on the national average, for a "typical home:"

- Approximately 9% of summer energy consumption is used to COOL your home and.
- Approximately 45% of winter energy consumption is used to HEAT your home.

Those numbers will be influenced by geographic location throughout the country. So here in the Midwest, your home may use more energy for heating and cooling than the national average. Variables that impact energy use include, but are not limited to:



## Lifestyle Choices:

- Thermostat settings and how frequently they are adjusted.
- How many times exterior doors are opened throughout the day, which is influenced by the number of occupants and pets.
- Window coverings (drapes, shades, blinds) and how they are used to control solar heat gain that increases home cooling loads.
- Home quality and maintenance and how much air leaks through windows, doors and other penetrations in the home.

## Heating and Air Conditioning Efficiencies:

- Is the heating and cooling system properly sized and installed?
- Is routine annual preventative maintenance performed on the system by an HVAC professional?

## Seasonal Weather Variations:

- Consumption estimates are based on annual weather averages.
- A mild or harsh summer or winter season can dramatically influence heating and/or cooling energy consumption and cause energy estimates to vary from estimates.

The best approach to managing your energy use is to first understand how you use it.

## **Resources:**

- The [Department of Energy](#) has an excellent library of energy-saving ideas and strategies on lighting, appliances, weatherization, heating, air conditioning and many other topics.
- OPPD also has many resources including an [Energy Advisor](#), an [energy efficiency video library](#) and a [Watt Detector Program](#).