



Grandin Properties Residents:

Help us to be lean and green! Grandin continues to look for ways that our properties can be more efficient and eco-friendly. We are committed to being financially and environmentally responsible and want to form a partnership with our residents to make both our properties and planet a little better.

How can you help? Simply implement some of these suggestions. They are easy to do! And since no one knows our properties better than those who live there, we would love to hear your suggestions on how to be more cost conscious and energy efficient.



Water Consumption

Did you know that the average person uses between 50-75 gallons of water each day? On our part, when we replace fixtures, we look for low-flow models. Here are some ways you can make a big difference in reducing personal usage:

1. **Running toilets and dripping faucets are a drain!** CALL US! Literally hundreds of gallons of water are wasted each day because these easy-to-fix items are not reported.
2. Be aware of your water usage. Scrape off your plate and put it in the dishwasher. Don't rinse thoroughly and then place in the dishwasher – that's like double-dipping your water use!
3. **Run the dishwasher only when full.** Also select an energy saving setting such as "air dry" or "overnight dry". For those times when you hand wash dishes, avoid running the water continuously while rinsing.
4. **Don't let water run.** When brushing your teeth, turn off the water until you need to rinse.
5. **Take showers instead of baths.** Are those 10 minute showers really necessary?
6. **Recycle – yes recycle! – your water.** For example, if you are running water to heat it up prior to washing dishes, collect that water for your plants or fill a pitcher to be refrigerated for cool drinking water.



Energy Consumption

Grandin Properties installed timers in most of our laundry rooms and storage areas, and we switched to compact fluorescent light bulbs to further reduce energy consumption. Here's what you can do:

1. **Turn off the lights.** People don't realize how often they over-brighten their homes in the evening and then wonder why they have a hard time winding down for bed! Our biology reflects the solar day, so minimize the amount of lighting you have at night.
2. **Put your pots on the correct burner.** When cooking, use the smallest pot containing the least amount of liquid on the smallest burner.
3. **Use compact fluorescent light bulbs in your apartment.** Also be sure to turn off lights when leaving your apartment.
4. **Using your ceiling fan is a breeze.** In warmer weather, turn on the ceiling fans and turn off/down the air conditioner.
5. **Unplug it!** Electronic devices turned off but plugged in still use electricity. Unplug equipment not in use – computers, cell phone chargers, hair dryers, etc. Utilizing surge protectors can make it easier to turn off a number things at once.
6. **Adjust your thermostat.** Set the heat lower or the cooling higher when you are away and at night. If you have one, a programmable thermostat makes this task automatic.
7. **Change air filters every month.** A dirty filter increases operating costs.

8. **Keep vents clear and clean.** Make sure heat registers and vents are not blocked by draperies, furniture or rugs. These vents should also be cleaned regularly with a vacuum or a broom.
9. **Take advantage of natural solar heat.** On sunny days, leave the draperies open to allow the sun's rays to warm your house. Likewise, in the summer, close draperies to block out unwanted heat.
10. **Nuke it!** Try to do most of your cooking in the microwave or on top of the range instead of in the oven. Microwave ovens use up to 70% less energy than a conventional oven.
11. **Don't set your refrigerator or freezer too cold.** Also a full freezer performs better than a nearly empty one.
12. **Use kitchen, bath and other ventilating fans wisely.** In just one hour, these fans can pull out a houseful of cooled or heated air.
13. **Use ceiling fans year round.** Ceiling fans help keep you comfortable not only in the summer but in the winter as well. Reversing the direction of the blades pushes warm air down into the room. Fans should turn counter-clockwise in the summer and clockwise in the winter.
14. **Two words: public transportation.** At least twice a week, you can swap out your car for the bus and instantly reduce your carbon emissions. Plus less miles on your car means less up-keep, cheaper car insurance rates and less stress in traffic.
15. **Go vegetarian for two dinners a week.** This reduces your impact on the environment since it takes an estimated 3 times the fossil fuels to raise animals for meat and over a whopping 30 times the water! If just twice a week you forgo the chicken, beef, lamb or pork for, say, eggplant parmesan with spaghetti marinara, you're helping reduce the impact of fuel over-consumption.
16. **Stop watching television.** Entertainment isn't bad, but decreasing the amount of television you watch reduces your electricity consumption and your desire to buy all those products you see on commercials.



Trash Reduction

Our business is built around taking something old and making it new again. Listed below are some of the ways you can reduce your refuse:

1. **Cut down on paper goods.** Minimize how often you use paper plates, cups and towels.
2. **Say no to paper and plastic.** Consider a canvas tote when shopping to avoid using store bags. If you forget your tote, minimize the bags you do use. Use that giant bag you got at Target to also hold the earrings you purchased at the jewelers down the street as well as the shoes you picked up at the boutique next door.
3. **Break down boxes before disposing.** Even better, take them to a recycling center.
4. **Reuse household products.** One of the best ways to reduce your waste and consumption is to reuse things that you would normally toss in the garbage. Reusing is better than recycling because it saves the energy it takes to turn a post consumer item into industrial grade product. Reusing can be a creative exercise, and you don't need to be an art teacher to be good at it. Just take a look at what you would normally throw away and try to identify alternative uses. For example, you can use any screw top glass jar for containers and cups, milk gallons for funnels, cardboard boxes for shipping or storing items, old newspapers to wash mirrors, and aluminum foil for, well, aluminum foil.
5. **Recycle!** For the items that you cannot reuse and for waste that you could not reduce, it is as important as it is easy to recycle. Paper, plastic, aluminum and glass items can all be recycled.

If you have other ideas we can share with our residents, pass them along to info@grandinproperties.com!