



(cont.)

- Write or call your city/county representative and state reps and ask them to consider conducting an energy audit in their offices; do the same at school and work.
- Insulate your hot water pipes; it's easy—just clip on the foam insulation.
- Turn down the temperature on your hot water heater to the lowest setting.
- Cut food before cooking; put the lid on pans; cook outside in summer.
- Follow our grandmothers' advice: "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without."

Want to help share the creation care message with churches throughout the world? Consider partnering financially with our ministry. Send your tax deductible contribution to:

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50 QUICK TIPS: **TAKE CARE OF CREATION**

Adapted from *Serve God, Save the Planet*
by J. Matthew Sleeth, MD

For more stewardship ideas for your home, church, and community,
please visit www.blessed-earth.org.

- Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth or shaving.
- Turn thermostat up three degrees (in summer) and down three degrees (in winter). In the spring and fall, open the windows as often as possible.
- Wash dishes by hand in a dishpan. If you use the dishwasher, only run with a full load and do not use heat for the drying cycle.
- Wash clothes in the coolest water possible.
- Always turn off lights, TV, radio and stereo when leaving the room.
- Take a day of rest once a week—no shopping, no work, no driving.
- Recycle everything possible; don't buy over-packaged items.
- Donate a box of books to the library twice a year.
- Hand wash clothes instead of dry cleaning.
- Clean out closets and donate clothes not worn in the past year.
- Memorize one Bible verse about God's love for his creation, such as Psalm 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."
- Install low-flow showerheads. Take showers instead of baths. (They use less water.) Reduce shower time by two minutes.
- Replace lights with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Clean or replace air filters every six months.

- Disconnect the ice machine in the freezer.
- Unplug TV and stereo when not in use or put them on a switched power strip to avoid “phantom loads.”
- Donate old cell phones, computers, printers to a good cause, or take them to Staples for recycling.
- Plant deciduous trees along south side of house to save on cooling costs.
- When replacing appliances, purchase the most efficient (Energy Star), with the lowest yearly energy costs.
- Ask your local utility to conduct an energy audit on your home and/or business and then heed their advice.
- Visit the grocery only once each week. Combine trips. Carpool.
- Air-dry laundry.
- Avoid fast food restaurants; pack a picnic lunch when traveling.
- Replace church light bulbs with compact fluorescents. Recycle church bulletins.
- Caulk and weather strip around windows and doors to plug air leaks.
- Stock up on handkerchiefs, cloth shopping bags, and cloth napkins. Avoid purchasing anything with the word “disposable.”
- Wait a month before buying something you “need;” when you do make purchases, buy quality items that will last for many years.
- Save unwanted catalogs and ask to be taken off their mailing list. Reduce the amount of junk mail you receive by registering at www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailing-list. It costs \$1—the best buck you ever spent!
- Set up a “share board” at church or organize a clothing exchange.
- Give away or sell anything and everything that is cluttering your life. Donate the proceeds to charity.
- Instead of a birthday gift or funeral flowers, send a donation to charity or plant a tree or shrub in their honor.
- When replacing a car, consider a hybrid or one that gets great mileage and has low emissions. Suggest the same for your church, school, business and city.
- Organize a paint swap at church or the recycling center; combine unused portions of paint and use as a primer.
- Organize a church-based public prayer event with emphasis on creation care and stewardship.
- Start a study group on what the Bible says about caring for creation.
- Hang thick or insulated curtains. Close them during the day in summer; close at night in winter.
- Ask your children to “pare down” their toys periodically; give those gently used items to local charities or non-profit groups.
- Vacation closer to home. De-stress your holidays by staying home on one holiday when you usually travel.
- Avoid use of pesticides and chemicals on your lawn and garden.
- Pray for people whose forests and habitats have been destroyed by our material desires; ask God to help you become a better steward of His resources.
- Spend at least ten minutes in nature “being still and knowing that I am God.”
- Cut back on soft drinks by substituting tap water at least once per day.
- Avoid covering radiators and vents with furniture or curtains; program thermostats to come on 30 minutes before waking up and coming home.
- Plant a vegetable garden. Support community agriculture. Buy local.
- Insulate your attic with a minimum of 10 inches of insulation; insulate your hot water heater if it’s an older model.