



Control Holiday Cooking Costs

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates cooking accounts for 4 percent of home energy use. This figure does not include energy costs associated with refrigeration, water heating and dishwashing.

As holiday parties and potlucks gear up, DOE suggests you keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:

Don't peek. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing the oven to use more energy to get back to the proper cooking temperature.

Turn it down or turn it off. For regular cooking, it probably is not necessary to have your oven on as long—or set as high—as the recipe says. For recipes that need to bake for longer than an hour, preheating the oven is not necessary. And residual heat from an electric oven or stovetop will finish the last 5 to 10 minutes of cooking time. Just remember to keep the oven door closed or the lid on until time is up.

Alternately, if you are baking in a ceramic or glass dish, you typically can set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe says. Because ceramic and

glass hold heat better than metal pans, your dish will cook just as well at a lower temperature.

Give your burners a break. For your stovetop to function effectively, it is important the metal reflectors under your electric burners be free of dirt and grime.

Don't neglect your slowcooker, microwave, toaster oven or warming plate. The average toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove in the same cooking time. Information to help you estimate how much energy your appliances use is available at www.energysavers.gov.

Give your furnace the day off. If your next party involves a lot of work for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to compensate. The heat of the oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.

Make contact. Heat can be transmitted only to pans in direct contact with electric stovetops; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop must expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November

- 1-3—Disney On Ice: Rockin' Ever After, Toyota Center, Kennewick
- 3—Daylight saving time ends
- 7-10—Portland Metro RV Dealers' Fall RV Show of Shows, Portland Expo Center
- 8-9—Annual Christmas Bazaar, Lyle
- 8-10—Custer's 18th Annual Christmas Arts and Craft Show, TRAC Center, Pasco
- 11—Veterans Day Parade, The Dalles
- 11—Veterans Day – Klickitat PUD offices will be closed
- 12—Klickitat PUD commission meeting, 2 p.m.
- 15-17—Portland Ski Fever and Snowboard Show, Portland Expo Center
- 15-17—2013 Woodworking Show, Portland Expo Center
- 15—Michael Bubl  Concert at the Rose Quarter, Portland
- 16-17—Rose City Gun and Knife Show, Portland Expo Center
- 21-23—Quilt, Craft and Sewing Festival, Portland Expo Center
- 23—Professional Bull Riding Event, TRAC Center, Pasco
- 26—Klickitat PUD commission meeting, 2 p.m.
- 28-29—Thanksgiving—Klickitat PUD offices are closed
- 29-12/01—America's Largest Christmas Bazaar, Portland Expo Center

December

- 1—Christmas Bazaar, Goldendale
- 10—Annual Bazaar, Columbia Hills Log Building, Dallesport

