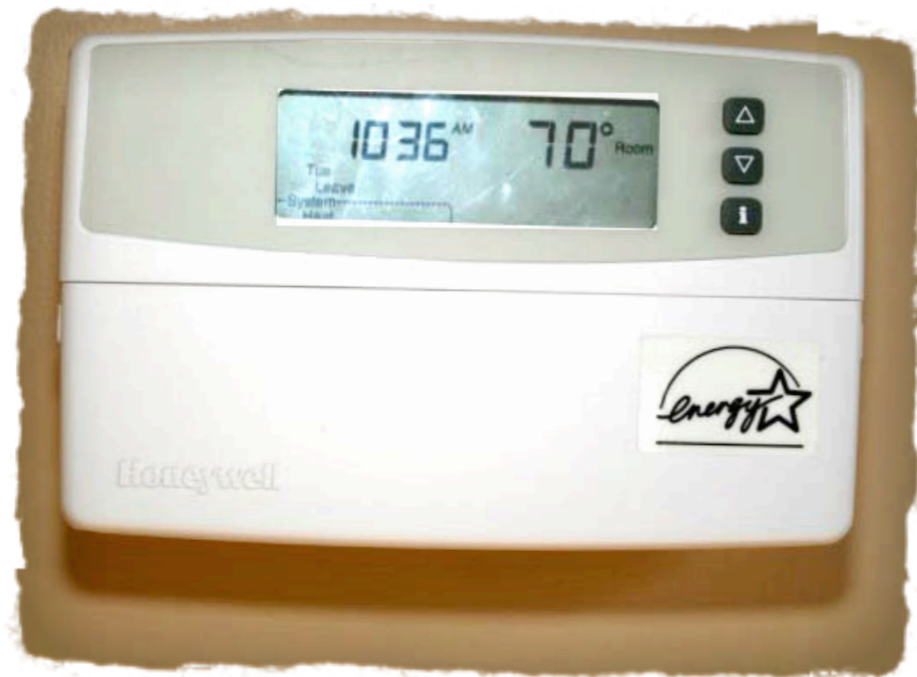
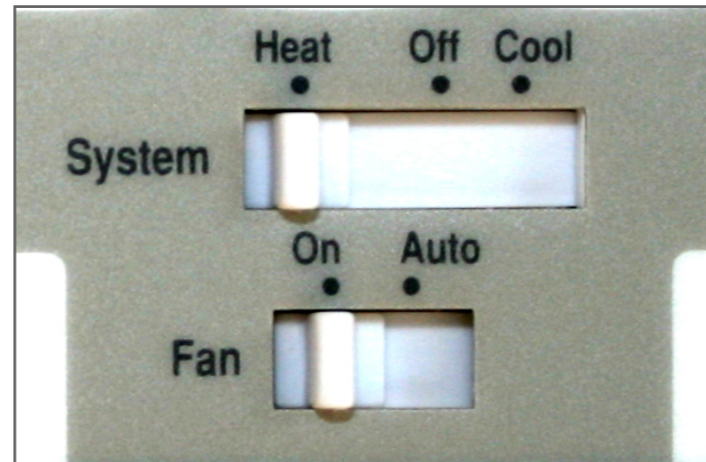


set your furnace fan



Here's the easiest way to save energy ever.

Your thermostat probably has a little switch on it to control the fan in your heating system.



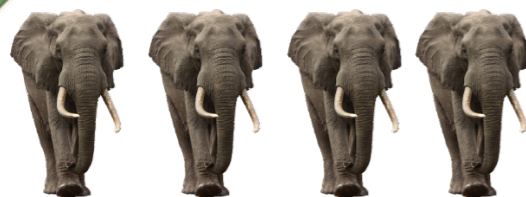
If you have forced hot air for your heating system, then turning that switch to **On** keeps the furnace fan whirring constantly every hour of the day every day of the year. That fan is then trying to circulate the heat from the furnace even when the furnace is off—even in the middle of the summer.

(The same is true if you have central air conditioning. The fan again will be on,

even when the air conditioner isn't, trying to circulate the cool air).

To make matters worse, these fans tend to be wildly inefficient.

Switching it to **Auto** turns the fan on only when the furnace or air conditioner turns on.



How to switch your furnace fan setting

- Energy savings per decade: **\$5,619 and 44,800 lbs. CO₂**
- Level of difficulty: **Easy**
- Cost: **\$0**
- How long it takes: **10 seconds**
- Tools & materials: **Your finger**

1. If you have forced hot air heat (i.e., no radiators in your home, but those vents with metal grates), walk over to your thermostat now.
2. See the button that says *Fan*? If it is set to *On*, switch it to *Auto*.
3. You just saved \$525 in electricity per year.
4. Check the thermostats at your neighbors', friends' and relatives' homes also. If any of them have forced hot air and the Fan switch set the wrong way, flip the switch to *Auto* and then ask them to take you out for a nice dinner. They owe you.



Myth buster: Some people like to keep the fan on all the time. They believe:

- They are making their air cleaner by filtering it. Unfortunately normal furnace and air conditioning filters don't filter air very effectively unless you have some fancy filtration set up (that was installed well).
- The fan will keep them cooler in the summer or will mix air better in the winter. However, if the ducts run outside the heated and cooled part of the building (for instance into the attic or a crawlspace), then the air moving through the ducts will lose heat in the winter and cold during the summer making the home more uncomfortable and increasing the energy bill even more than we've estimated here. In addition, in the summer the fan power will add extra heat to your home you don't want.