

## Money Saving Tips for Homeowners

Beaver County – It's a new year and the perfect time for homeowners to sit down, look at their budgets and plan for ways they might save money each month in 2024.

"There are lots of ways homeowners can save money around their homes this year," said Beaver County Association of Realtors® President Barbara Cardinale. "Of course, you can save money on utilities by turning off the lights and shortening your showers, but there are many other little things that you can do to save money that you may not have thought of."

In winter and summer especially, homeowners can reduce expenses by properly heating and cooling their homes. Set the thermostat to a temperature closer to the outdoor temperature to use less energy. Winterize homes in the fall to keep the warmth in and save on heating costs in the winter. In the summer, keep blinds drawn and unneeded lights off. All year round, it's a good idea to keep closets closed to keep heating/cooling contained in the main areas of the home.

"Aside from utilities, you can save on home maintenance, repairs and upgrades," Cardinale added. "You can complete simple maintenance and repairs yourself by following tutorials, and there are many affordable DIY upgrades that are easy to do and increase the appeal of your home. Just make sure to leave the harder jobs to professionals, such as plumbing and electrical work. Plus, here's a tip: if you need tools for a project, rent them instead of buying them."

In the kitchen, homeowners can cut costs by remembering to eat leftovers, running the dishwasher only when it's full, freezing food for later and using produce and herbs grown in their own garden. Opting for a filtered water pitcher can also save money (and the planet) over buying bottled water.

"Whether on yearly maintenance, monthly utilities or daily expenses, reassessing your budget and taking simple actions can help you save money throughout the year," Cardinale said. "The sooner you start, the more you can save in the long run."