

THIS IS THE LAW

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USE OF GUILTY PLEAS IN CIVIL TRIALS

Smith sideswiped another car and was cited for making an improper turn. When his case came to trial, he pleaded not guilty, but he was found guilty and had to pay a fine and court costs.

Later, the owner of the other car sued Smith for damages to his car.

Smith was worried that in the civil trial the fact that he had been convicted in criminal court would be used against him. He feared that he would automatically lose the civil

case since it had already been determined in criminal court that he had made an improper turn.

Did Smith correctly assess what would happen in the civil trial?

No. Because he pleaded not guilty in the criminal trial, his conviction could not be introduced in evidence in the civil trial. But if Smith had pleaded guilty, this admission could have been used against him in the civil trial.

Looking For Ways To Save Money

By Sharon Allred Decker

CHARLOTTE — If you rent an apartment and pay for your own utilities, it is likely you are looking for ways to save energy and money. You may not have the option of making structural changes (adding storm windows, insulation, etc.), so you must find alternate methods of conservation.

Try these methods to hold your electric bills to a manageable amount year-round:

Watch the setting of your thermostat. Efficient operation can make a big difference in your energy use and the size of your bill.

Set your thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer. Every degree below 78 degrees can add about 8 percent to your cooling costs.

Set it at 68 degrees in the winter. Each degree above that can add about 5 percent to your heating costs.

Turn off appliances, including televisions and stereos, when you leave the room. Always turn off small appliances such as electric hair curlers and dryers when they are not in use.

Know what you want before you open the refrigerator door. Holding the door open causes the refrigerator to operate longer.

Operate the dishwasher only when it is filled to capacity.

Turn off lights when you leave a room. Every energy-saving

habit you can form will help.

Keep doors and windows closed when your air conditioner or heating system is running. You are paying to heat or cool the air — keep it inside.

Add weatherstripping or caulking around windows and doors to stop drafts. It is an inexpensive measure compared to the savings you may realize.

Use small appliances for food preparation rather than major appliances when possible.

In winter keep blinds or draperies on windows open on sunny days to help heat your apartment. Close drapes at night to hold heat inside.

In summer keep blinds or draperis drawn on sunny days to help keep heat out.

The location of your apartment may affect your bill. For example, if your apartment is surrounded on three sides and above or below by other apartments, it will be better insulated than an end apartment because of less exposure to outside heat and cold.

Because your lifestyle and energy-use habits play an important role in the size of your bill, your bill may vary considerably from your neighbor's, even though you may live in apartments of approximately the same size.

Perhaps you are renting and the landlord pays the utilities. You should still practice good conservation habits. Although you may not feel the money pinch of utility costs, we should all share the responsibility of saving energy for the future.

Tryon Daily Bulletin, Fri., Aug. 15, 1980

FANCY THAT!



Surprising as it may seem, an efficient air conditioner in your car can help you save fuel. At 40 mph and above, open windows cause the car to burn more fuel than does the air conditioner.



An efficient motor oil can help you save fuel and money. One, priced about the same as ordinary multi-graded oils can give you up to 5% better gas mileage than some of the synthetics claim. This fuel-efficient oil, Imperial 2, meets all manufacturer's requirements and the new API Service Classification SF required for 1980 and newer cars. It was created by the Amalie Refining Company, which has pioneered innovations in motor oil since 1903.

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Turn off all lights when not needed. One 100-watt bulb burning for ten hours uses 11,600 BTU's or the equivalent of a pound of coal or one-half pint of oil.

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