



Occupancy Sensors

What is it?

- Occupancy Sensors are devices that turn lights and other equipment on or off in response to the presence (or absence) of people in a defined area.



How does it work?

- The device is mounted on a wall or a ceiling of a particular room and when someone walks into or out of the room, the lights go on or off, respectively.

How much does it cost?

- From \$45-\$100, depending on the size of the room you want covered. [Efficiency Vermont](#) offers a \$30 rebate.

What's the payback period?

- Just about two years in most applications.

Applications of device?

- Great for bathrooms, hallways, class rooms, meeting rooms, and other areas where there is not a consistent flow of people in and out.

Benefits:

- Reduces electrical costs for lighting by almost 35%-45%
- Increases building security
- When lights are left on, they will automatically shut off!!

Issues to consider:

- Savings will vary depending on the area size, type of lighting and occupancy pattern.
- Savings can be achieved without the use of sensors. If the occupancy pattern in an area is regular and predictable, a more effective choice is a timer system to turn light and other equipment on and off at predetermined times.
- The installation of the sensors may not provide a payback if extensive rewiring is required. A more effective conservation may come from lighting retrofits or other conservation measures.
- In an area such as a bathroom, you would need to have an "ultrasonic" sensor to detect sound as well as motion because the bathroom stalls will interfere with the sensors coverage area.