



Winter Heating Tips

When the weather turns cold, these tips will help you stay cozy and comfortable without spending a bundle.

CUT ENERGY WASTE

Cold Weather Energy-Savings Tips

- Let the sun help heat your home. Open curtains on south facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill.
- If you spend most of your time in one or two rooms and you have zonal heat, turn the heat down in the other rooms of your home to save energy.
- Wearing an extra layer or two of clothing will allow you to comfortably keep your thermostat turned down.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat down several degrees.
- Fix and seal leaks. Seal air leaks around plumbing penetrations, chimneys and recessed lights, and behind cupboards.
- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.
- Be sure to maintain your heating system. Schedule a tune up with a local HVAC contractor. If you have a furnace or heat pump, be sure to change your furnace filters monthly.
- A traditional fireplace is not a good source of supplemental heating. The fireplace often sucks heated air out of your home exhausts it through the chimney, and then your furnace has to turn on to replace the warm air.

Use Space Heaters Efficiently

An electric space heater can save money on energy bills if you lower the temperature on your central heating system. For cost savings set your thermostat to 55 degrees and use the space heater to warm only the room you are using.

Turn Down Your Thermostat

Turn down your thermostat to 68 degrees during the day and lower when you are away from home or at night. If you have a programmable thermostat, schedule the times you are away to automatically turn down the heat. Smart thermostats, like the Nest, learn your schedule and program themselves, and can be controlled from your smart phone.

More Ways To Save

A home energy evaluation is a wise first step to assess the ways in which your home consumes energy. This evaluation will identify what specific measures you can take to make your home more energy efficient. Suggestions may include:

- Seal and insulate your ductwork. Make sure the ducts are straight and properly connected. Many duct systems are not insulated properly or have gaps and holes where heated air can leak out.
- Add insulation to the attic, crawl space or basement, and exterior walls. Adding insulation is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste.
- If you have single-paned windows or double-paned windows with aluminum frames, consider replacing them with new, ENERGY STAR® qualified windows. Not only will this cut energy waste, it can also improve the value of your home.



Upgrade To An Energy Efficient Heat Pump

Like your refrigerator, heat pumps use electricity to move heat from a cool space to a warm space, making the cool space cooler and the warm space warmer. During the winter, heat pumps move heat from the cool outdoors into your warm house. Because they move heat, rather than generate heat, heat pumps are more efficient than forced air furnaces.



- A heat pump is one of the most efficient heating and cooling systems you can install for your home. Because it does not convert electricity into heat, you will save money and cut waste.
- For homes without pre-existing ducts, or with open floor plans, a ductless heat pump, often called a mini-split heat pump, is available. These heat pumps are efficient, easy to install and quiet to operate.