



# Heat Your Home for LESS This Winter


 Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust your temperature settings when you are away from home or sleeping.

 For those who are gone all day without digital thermostats, set your thermostat at 60 or 62 degrees Fahrenheit. Adjust the temperature when you come home for added heat.



 Open blinds during the day to let the sun in, at dusk, close them to trap in the heat.


 When possible, turn the heat down, and wear a sweater or scarf or sit with a blanket to stay warm.


 Contact your energy provider and ask about getting on a budget plan to spread out the cost of heating your home throughout the year.


 Always invest in energy star appliances.




 Insulate your home if you can afford to do so.

 Dust or vacuum all radiators and heat vents frequently. Dust acts as a wonderful insulator and tends to build up on radiators and base board heat vents where it can keep the heat from getting into the rooms that need it most.


 Replace or clean your furnace filter at least 1-2 times each year (more often if you have severe allergies, lots of pets, etc). This will keep the air in your house cleaner, and make the furnace more efficient.


 Check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors by pressing the test button. Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors should be checked at least once a month. Designate one time of each year to check the batteries on all detectors.

 Have a heating audit done; this will tell you where the heat is escaping your home.



 Block leaks around doors and windows.

 To help with drafty doors, buy door sweeps, which usually cost between \$3 and \$10, to close spaces under exterior doors. For drafty windows, replace exterior caulk every 3 to 4 years to fill in open spaces. Be sure to remove all old caulk before re-applying, as a new layer will not stick and seal.

 Use space heaters to heat rooms you spend large amounts of time in. This will prevent heat from going into rooms that no one is in. However, use caution and be sure space heaters are NOT plugged into extension cords and are at least 3 feet away from any combustible materials (bedding, curtains, couches, etc).

 Use electric blankets or down comforters to keep warm at night.