

Energy Saving Tips

Home Heating

There are a variety of ways to reduce energy usage to help save on home heating costs. The methods used to save money on home heating costs will vary for each homeowner depending on age and size of home, number of occupants, schedules and habits.

- **Keep shades and curtains open during the day.** Especially on the south side of your home you can naturally heat your home by keeping shades open during the day and close them at night to retain the heat.
- **Close the fireplace damper.** Stop cold air from entering the house through the chimney when not in use.
- **Replace screens with storm windows.** For an extra barrier to the cold outside air make sure to close storm windows tightly so no air leaks in or out.
- **Set back your thermostat.** In heating mode, lower your thermostat by 1 degree for 8 hours (while asleep or away from home) to save about 1% on your heating bill. For convenience, install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature depending on the time of day and day of week.
- **Set your furnace fan to “auto”.** Setting the fan switch on your thermostat to “on” will cause it to run all the time, whether or not your home needs heating or cooling.
- **Caulk and weather strip** around windows and doors to keep the warm air from escaping.
- **Insulating and air sealing.** These two cost effective ways to improve energy efficiency will lower your utility bill and help you stay warm and comfortable. Reducing air leaks alone could cut 10 percent from the average household’s energy bill.
- **Keep radiators or heating vents clear from furniture or draperies.** Keep your radiators, registers and baseboard heaters dirt and dust free.
- **Minimize the use of ovens, stoves, dryers** and other major appliances on very hot days. Their usage could require the air conditioner to run longer.
- **Maintain your heating system.** Schedule yearly maintenance with a qualified contractor and replace furnace filters monthly or according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- **Use kitchen and bath ventilating fans wisely.** Turn these fans off as soon as they are no longer needed. In about one hour, these fans can pull out a houseful of warmed air.

