

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 our 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.
- **Use your ceiling fan clockwise.** In the winter months, your fan should run in reverse (clockwise) at a low speed. This will gently draw the room air up towards the ceiling and force the warm air down and out towards the walls, avoiding giving you the wind chill effect.
- **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.



When correctly installed in a home that has been air sealed, insulation can help you achieve both comfort and energy savings during the hottest and coldest times of the year.

- **Keep radiators or heating vents clear from furniture or draperies.** Keep your radiators, registers and baseboard heaters dirt and dust free.
- **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.
- **Caulk and weather strip around windows and doors** to keep the warm air from escaping.