

Winter Energy Saving Tips

No Cost

- 1. Start by setting your thermostat to 68°.** Your heating system will operate less and use less energy. Turn you thermostat down 5° at night or when leaving your home for an hour or more to save on energy cost each year. For a small investment, consider purchasing a programmable thermostat to adjust your home's temperature settings automatically when you're sleeping or away.
- 2. Set your water heater to 120°.** Your water heater won't have to work so hard if it's set at a lower temperature. The temperature control settings on water heater either indicate "low, medium and high" or actual temperature settings. Simply consider turning down your water heater to a slightly cooler setting to reduce the amount of energy used to heat the water while still keeping the water warm enough for home use. In fact, each time you lower the temperature by 10°m you can save 3-5% on your water heating costs. For a small investment, consider adding a water heater blanket to your water heater tank to insulate the tank and reduce the amount of energy used to maintain warm water in the tank. Be sure to follow you manufacturer's recommendations.
- 3. Open window coverings on south facing windows to help warm your home.** Also, consider closing window coverings in rooms that receive no direct sunlight to insulate from cold window drafts. At night, close window coverings to retain heat. Up to 15% of your heat can escape through unprotected window, both the solar heat gain from the dun during the day con conserve valuable energy.
- 4. Use cold water when washing clothes.** According to Energy Star, washing clothes in cold water will save you about \$40 a year with an electric water heater and \$30 a year with a gas water heater.

Low Cost

- 1. Replace your furnace or heat pump filter regularly.** Dirty filters reduce airflow, making your equipment work harder and use more energy. Replace your furnace filter monthly (unless it's a high efficiency filter designed to last several months) during the heating season to reduce heat costs. Be sure to follow your manufacturer's recommendations.
- 2. Install water-efficient showerheads and faucets.** 1.8 gallon per minute showerheads can reduce your hot water consumption by as much as 10%.
- 3. Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs.** They cost a little more, but you can save about \$40 over the life of just on bulb.
- 4. Weatherize your home.** A handy homeowner can seal up holes to the outside by weather-stripping doors and sealing windows and gaps along the home's foundation.

Bigger Cost

- 1. Insulate your home.** The easiest and most cost-effective way to insulate your home is to add insulation in the attic. Other effective places to add insulation include unfinished basement walls and crawlspaces. Insulating walls can be more complex, so check with a contractor for advice.
- 2. Purchase Energy Star appliances.** Appliances and electronics rally contribute to your energy bill. When it's time to replace, remember items like refrigerators, washers, dryers, furnaces, TV's and computers have two price tags-purchase price and lifetime energy cost.