



Energy Savings Tips

Tips to save energy and keep warm in severe winter weather

1. Lower the thermostat a few degrees and check your programmable settings. Wear additional layers of clothing if needed to stay comfortable.
2. Set the temperature of the water heater to a maximum of 120°F (unless there are medically necessary reasons to have the temperature set higher). Check with a qualified professional to see if your water heater can be insulated (some tanks warn against insulating for safety reasons).
3. Make sure the seams and corners of your return and supply ducts are sealed. This not only ensures the air is going where it is designed, but it also limits dust, mold, and other contaminants from getting into your system.
4. Change your furnace filter as often as every month. A clogged filter lets less air through, which means your system has to work harder.
5. Make sure all doors and windows are fully closed when the heater is on.
6. Apply weather stripping or caulk to seal gaps and cracks around windows and doors to stop air leaks and prevent energy loss. If that is not an option, you can also cover windows with towels, sheets or plastic to help keep the warm air in your house.
7. Close blinds and curtains when the sun isn't shining. Open blinds and curtains when it's sunny to take advantage of free solar heat.
8. Make sure all vents are free of obstruction. Furniture or other items on top or in front of vents can block the airflow, reducing comfort and making your system work harder.
9. Hold off on doing chores. Doing laundry and washing dishes can both use natural gas to heat the water and your dryer. If you can, wait until the extreme cold weather passes to complete these activities. If you cannot wait, use the cold setting where possible.

Please Note: When making changes to your home, such as insulation or air-sealing, you change the flow of air in the home. It is important to speak with a qualified professional to verify that your combustion appliances (water heater, furnace, stove, etc.) are operating and venting properly. Over-tightening your home's envelope could result in dangerous back drafts. Use of unvented space heaters in a home is dangerous. Always follow manufacturer's instructions, and speak to a qualified heating and air conditioning specialist prior to making significant changes to your home.