

HEATING TIPS

Take advantage of Heat from the sun

- Open curtains on the south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat the home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- Be certain to plant deciduous trees on the south facing side of the home, especially in proximity to windows. They will let the light and warmth in the windows during the winter and will shade the windows in the summer.

Cover drafty windows

- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.
- Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.

Adjust the temperature

- When you are home and awake, set the thermostat as low as is comfortable.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn the thermostat back to save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills. A smart or programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature. But make sure the temperature is comfortable for pets!
- If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate setting or use a programmable thermostat specially designed for use with the heat pumps.

Find and Seal Leaks

- Seal air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes (plumbing penetrations), gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
- Add caulk or weather-stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Maintain your heating systems

- Only adjust thermostats no more than two degrees at a time.
- Leave system set to Auto, never turn system completely off
- Schedule routine service for home heating systems.
- Replace furnace and heat pump filters once a month or as needed.
- Regularly clean, the flue vent of wood, pellet burning heaters, and clean the inside of the appliance with a wire brush periodically to ensure that it is heating efficiently.

Reduce heat loss from the Fireplace

- Keep the fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- When using the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox or open the nearest window slightly- approximately 1 inch- and close doors leading into the room. Lower the thermostat setting to between 50 and 55 F.
- If the fireplace is never used, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- Install tempered glass doors and a heat- air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
- Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- Add fire-proof caulking around the fireplace hearth.

Lower water heating costs

- Keep the temperature of the water heater to the warm setting (120 F). This will not only save energy, it will also help avoid scalding.

HEALTH & SAFETY TIPS

- Install Carbon Monoxide alarms (Even if not using gas)
- Never leave space heaters plugged in when not around
- DO NOT plug space heaters into strips
- Check smoke alarms