

# WINTER *is* COMING!



Tips on how to help you save energy and money during the cold months.

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## **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HEAT FROM THE SUN**

- Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

## **COVER DRAFTY WINDOWS**

- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your 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 your thermostat as low as is comfortable.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills.

## **FIND AND SEAL LEAKS**

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

## **MAINTAIN YOUR HEATING SYSTEMS**

- Furnaces and heat pumps: Replace your filter once a month or as needed.
- Wood and Pellet-Burning Heaters: Clean the flue vent regularly and clean the inside of the appliance with a wire brush periodically to ensure that your home is heated efficiently.

## **REDUCE HEAT LOSS FROM THE FIREPLACE**

- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- If you do use the fireplace, 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 caulking around the fireplace hearth.

## **LOWER YOUR WATER HEATING COSTS**

- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F).

## **LOWER YOUR HOLIDAY LIGHTING COSTS**

- Use light-emitting diode -- or "LED" -- holiday light strings to reduce the cost of decorating your home for the winter holidays.
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Learn more energy saving tips at [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)

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