

Weatherization is just the first step to reducing your heating and cooling costs

Heating and Cooling Tips

- ✓ Set your thermostat as low as possible in the winter and as high as possible in the summer. A good starting point is to keep the thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer and at 68 degrees in the winter.
- ✓ Let nature help. Keep windows open to circulate air. During the heating season, keep draperies and curtains open for warmth and closed at night to reduce the chill.
- ✓ Clean or replace your furnace filter monthly.
- ✓ Make sure that air registers and baseboards are not blocked.
- ✓ Dress for the season.
- ✓ Close the flue damper on your chimney when it is not in use. Keeping the damper open is the same as having a 48-inch wide window open in the winter!
- ✓ Use a fan to stay cool. A ceiling fan or portable fan can make the room feel 6 degrees cooler. In the winter, ceiling fans also help distribute warm air without creating a chilly breeze.
- ✓ Keeps lamps, TVs, and other heat producing items away from the thermostat.
- ✓ Keep areas around heat pumps clear of grass, leaves, and other debris.
- ✓ If possible, plant trees to shade air-conditioning units. Shaded units use up to 10% less electricity than a unit in the sun.

Water Heating

- ✓ **Use less hot water.**
- ✓ Take more showers than baths. You may use between 15-25 gallons of hot water for a bath, where you would use less than 10 gallons for a shower.
- ✓ Use cold water to wash clothes. Remember, about 85 percent of the energy used for washing clothes is to heat the water.
- ✓ If you have a dishwasher, wait until it is full before you run it. Use the no-heat, air-dry feature. Up to 90% of the cost to operate a dishwasher is for heating the water.
- ✓ When washing by hand, don't let the hot water run continuously.

REACH and You: Heating and Cooling In Your Home



Why worry about heating and cooling costs?

- ◆ Typically half of your energy costs are for heating.
- ◆ Up to 10% of your energy costs are for cooling.

Let's See How You Can Save

- Is your house really drafty? Y N
- Is the thermostat always set at the same temperature? Y N
- Do you clean or replace your filters regularly? Y N
- Have any air registers, baseboard heaters, or radiators blocked by furniture or drapes? Y N
- Use fans to help cool your home? Y N
- Is your fireplace damper open year-round? Y N
- Turn the thermostat up higher than normal to heat the house faster? Y N
- Normally takes baths instead of showers? Y N

Where Are the Savings?

USAGE FACTS

Water heating is the third largest energy expense in your home, accounting for about 14% of your utility bill.

Heating costs are generally the largest energy expense in your home.

Heating and cooling systems emit gasses that significantly contribute To air pollution.

30% or more per year

