

56 Considerations For Cutting Home Heating Bills

1. Heat your home with the lowest priced energy in your community. (natural gas, electric, etc.)
2. Consider alternative (non-fossil fuel) energy sources such as solar heat. It costs less over time.
3. Buy a water heater insulation blanket. This will pay for itself quickly.
4. Open drapes and shades in winter months to allow radiant sunlight to heat your home.
5. Set thermostat to 68 degrees during awake hours and 55 degrees at night. Install an automatic timer.
6. Heat only the rooms in use. Simply close the cold air return and heat vent for unused rooms.
7. Cut heat loss by installing new or replacing worn-out weather stripping on doors and windows.
8. Insulate the attic and all outside walls. If building a new home, get proper insulation for the climate.
9. To heat the home evenly, be sure your thermostat is not located in a normally cold or hot place.
10. Check for cracks around fireplace and chimney. Keep heat in by caulking the cracks.
11. In winter, set thermostat low. In spring, summer and fall, turn heat off the furnace at the unit.
12. Wear warm (closely knit fabrics) clothing indoors during winter months.
13. When away for long periods, turn off water heater and set furnace low - so pipes don't freeze.
14. Keep windows closed during cold months. Buy clear plastic insulation kits at any hardware store.
15. Inspect the furnace and clean its components. Replace air filters when necessary.
16. Wrap heating ducts with duct tape wherever they are exposed to cold air.
17. Avoid peeking into the oven. You lose 20 to 50% of the heat each time you do.
18. Have your furnace serviced & cleaned by an experienced professional once per year.
19. Limit the use of bathroom and kitchen vent fans in winter... which draw the heat right outside.
20. Keep fireplace damper closed when not using fireplace - any season.
21. Make sure that the furnace cold air return vents are not obstructed.
22. Before buying any type of portable heater, check efficiency ratings and compare with others.
23. Pots and pans with flat bottoms and tight fitting covers are more energy efficient.
24. Be sure pots and pans are the proper size for range elements. (stove burners)
25. Plan some meals and kinds of food that can be prepared entirely in the oven at the same time.
26. Thaw frozen meals before cooking.
27. Never rely on the stove or oven to heat the home. This could be disastrous.
28. Turn off the oven about 5 minutes before cooking is completed.
29. Install storm or thermal pane windows in cold areas. (sides that the winter winds usually hit)
30. During winter months, arrange furniture away from the outside walls.
31. Remove awnings in late autumn from all sun-exposed windows. (winter months)
32. Insulate floors over unheated spaces such as garage and crawl spaces.
33. Close off attic, garage, basement, spare rooms and storage areas. Don't heat where you won't be.
34. An electric blanket costs less to operate than heating the bedroom areas.
35. Cover pots and pans when heating liquids. It really works to save energy.
36. Install storm doors before cold weather arrives. Plan for this sort of work in mid autumn.
37. Seal gaps around pipes, wires and vents. Caulk baseboards.
38. Turn off heat when fireplace is in use - practical in big open-air rooms and areas.
39. Glass fireplace doors reduce heat loss by allowing less air to move up the chimney.
40. Dust and/or vacuum radiator surfaces frequently. Also keep vents clean.
41. Don't forget to weather strip the attic doorways to prevent heat from escaping.
42. Buy plastic electric receptacle inserts. They prevent cold drafts. (outside walls in winter)
43. Repair holes in roof, walls, doors and windows where heat may escape.
44. Check to see that window glass has adequate putty sealing it into the window frame.
45. If firewood is available and you have space for it, consider installing a wood burning stove.
46. Turn off your furnace pilot light when heat is not necessary. There is a valve on the gas pipe.
47. Teach youngsters about several ways to conserve energy such as keeping doors closed.
48. Talk with your utility company - ask for conservation related suggestions.
49. Don't leave your door open in cold weather if you think you're just stepping outside a quick minute.

HOW TO SAVE ON HOT WATER

50. Set water heater thermostat between 104 and 110 degrees. (Most are set to 140 degrees.)
51. Repair leaky faucets. A dripping faucet can waste 15 gallons of hot water per day.
52. Install a low cost automatic timer on water heater. Heat water only during the hours needed.
53. Wash clothing in cold water with cold water detergent, as often as possible.
54. Install an aerator (type of screen attachment) on your faucets to save hot water.
55. Save hot water by installing an economy "low-flow" showerhead.
56. "Sud saver" washing machines allow you to reuse hot water for several loads.