

Energy Saving Ideas for Heating Your Home

Turn your thermostat down 5 degrees

Each degree saves about 2% on your heating bill. Five degrees would save about \$100 on a \$1,000 annual bill. Install a programmable thermostat and it does the work for you.

Have a professional tune up and inspect your furnace. An oil-burning furnace should be checked once a year, and gas-burning furnaces should be checked every two or three years. This can save up to 10 percent on your heating costs.

Make sure heat can get into the room. Keep furniture and drapes from blocking radiators, heating registers, and return vents. If you're purchasing a new heating system, look for an Energy Star system. They're the most energy-efficient models on the market and will save energy and money while helping the environment.

If you have a forced-air furnace or a heat pump, check the filter each month. Clean or replace it as needed.

Never use the stove to heat your home! It's expensive and very dangerous.

If you have hot water or steam heat, check water levels. A heating contractor can tell you how to add more water and give you tips to make your system work better.

Use a space heater that meets the latest safety standards. The standards have recently been updated to ensure greater safety.

Place space heaters in an open area. They should be placed on a level, hard, nonflammable surface to air can circulate around them. Keep them at least three feet away from flammable materials.

Turn off the space heater when you leave the room or go to sleep. It is important to use precautions when purchasing and using space heaters. Don't place a space heater near anyone sleeping. Every year, space heaters cause fires and carbon monoxide poisonings around the country.

Source: Ohio Energy Savers