

## **Tips to Save Energy (and money) This Winter**

*Like it or not, winter is just around the corner. Typically the cold winter months tend to mean higher energy bills. Oftentimes, homeowners feel powerless when it comes to staying comfortable indoors in the winter. They feel they have two choices: raise the heat and face a high utility bill, or keep costs down by leaving the temperature lower and wearing layers.*

*There are however, weatherization projects to make your home more energy efficient and more comfortable during the winter months. These include; installation of vinyl storm windows, installation of weather stripping on doors, and insulating water heaters and pipes.*

*Other small changes you can make that can have a big impact include:*

- *Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, or electrical wiring penetrates through exterior walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.*
- *Install rubber gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls.*
- *When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed. A chimney is designed specifically for smoke to escape, so until you close it, warm air escapes—24 hours a day.*
- *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 as a less costly alternative to new windows.*
- *Set your thermostat to 68°.*
- *Set your water heater to 120°.*
- *In the winter, make the most of Mother Nature's sunlight by opening window coverings on south-facing windows to warm your home.*
- *When using your washing machine, use cold water.*
- *Replace your furnace or heat pump filter regularly.*
- *Install water-efficient showerheads and faucets.*
- *Switch to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs.*

*With a little effort, we can all stay a little warmer this winter and save some money while doing so.*

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