



Low Cost Ways to Save on Home Heating Costs

FACT SHEET

For most of us, heating our home in winter is a major expense. However, you can keep this expense under control while also making your home a healthier and more comfortable place to live. Start with the no-cost and low-cost ideas listed here.

For more information call 800-762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com

Keep the heat in, keep the cold out

- Make sure storm windows are closed.
- If you don't have storm windows, install plastic film over the windows to stop drafts and keep the windows from fogging up.
- Close drapes or blinds in the rooms you are using. This will make you feel more comfortable since your body won't be losing heat to the cold window.
- Install tight-fitting covers over wall-mounted air conditioners to prevent air leaks and remove window air conditioners.
- If you have a fireplace, make sure the damper is closed. If you don't use the fireplace, consider placing a tight-fitting piece of plywood or similar material in front of the opening to help prevent warm air from escaping up the chimney.



Dial down

- Lower the setting on your thermostat, particularly when you are sleeping or away from home for more than a few hours.
- Invest in a thermostat that automatically turns the heat up or down so the house is already warmed up when you wake up in the morning or come home from work. These thermostats are relatively inexpensive and many homeowners are able to install the thermostat.

Have the heating system checked

- Have your furnace or boiler checked regularly to make sure it is running safely and efficiently. The heating technician will make sure that the burner is operating efficiently, and also look for leaks that create deadly carbon monoxide inside the house.

Clean furnace filters

- Check filters regularly and clean or replace them when dirty.
- The filter is found where air from the duct work comes back into to the furnace. Inexpensive filters with cardboard frames usually need to be replaced about once a month. Check the filter size before you buy since they come in different sizes. Other filters are like plastic kitchen scrubbers and can be rinsed with water, shaken dry and reinstalled.



Did you know?

Home radiators need to be 'bled' occasionally to remove trapped air. A special key opens the valve. When water comes out you close it immediately. (Be sure to have a container handy to catch water that accidentally escapes.) The technician that checks your heating system can tell you if you need to bleed your radiators and show you how to do it.



Long-term ways to save on heating bills

Beyond the low-cost steps to save on heating costs, a few additional steps can pay off in the long term.

- Make sure the attic and walls are fully insulated.
- Consider replacing the furnace or boiler. New heating equipment is much more efficient than older systems and can greatly lower the amount of heating fuel used.

For information on insulation or shopping for a new heating system contact the Focus on Energy program at 1-800-762-7077 or on the web at focusonenergy.com.



Are you eligible for help with energy efficiency improvements or heating expenses?

Qualifying Wisconsin residents may be eligible for assistance in making energy efficiency improvements to their homes or to receive help paying winter energy bills. To find out more about eligibility and the programs that are available contact 1.866.432.8947.

Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers throughout Wisconsin. The goals of this program are to encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, enhance the environment, and ensure the future supply of energy for Wisconsin. For information about the Focus on Energy services and programs, call 1.800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com

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