

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Give Heating System Checkup A Warm Welcome

(NAPSA)—Don't freeze up when it comes to servicing your heating system. A regular system check before the season will help your system work efficiently when the temperature starts to drop. Here's what to do to avoid wasting energy dollars:

First, check your house to determine how airtight and insulated it is, and then ask your heating contractor to check how efficiently your system provides heat.

Things he can check:

- The "R" value (the relative value of your home's insulation) in areas like the basement, crawl space, attic, as well as in the living spaces;

- Leaky seals or gaps around doors and windows; and
- Ductwork for leaks.

Things you should discuss with him to help identify problems in your home:

- If there is moisture inside double-glazed windows or if they are cloudy; and

- Whether the snow melts and refreezes directly on uncovered window ledges or similar places.

When checking your heating system, ask the contractor to determine:

- If it is properly sized (one too large will do the job, but very expensively; and one too small incessantly cycles, running up bills while not delivering comfort);

- Whether flues are properly vented so combustion by-products are not sucked into your home;

- Whether a humidifier moisturizing air would make your home feel warmer;

- If your system's air filter is clean; and

- If there are small problems that could affect your entire heating system if uncorrected.

With proper care, corrective action and prevention, your heating system may provide you with



Ask your contractor to give your heating system a thorough checkup once a year before colder weather gets here.

affordable comfort. Don't put off a system checkup. Spending a few dollars this fall could save hundreds of dollars during the year.

When choosing a heating contractor, find one with NATE-certified gas, oil or heat-pump technicians. Certified professionals have proven their knowledge of heating by passing a stringent test, which is national in scope. Locate contractors with NATE-certified technicians at www.natex.org by clicking on the question mark.

Schedule a service call today so you're ready for whatever winter may bring. Let your contractor explain to you how affordable winter comfort can be.

These tips are brought to you by North American Technician Excellence, or NATE, the nation's largest nonprofit certification organization for heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration technicians. The U.S. Department of Energy endorses NATE for raising quality standards and energy efficiency. For a contractor near you with NATE-certified technicians, visit the Consumer Contractor Connection at www.natex.org.