

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Improving Efficiency To Control Cooling Costs

(NAPSA)—Making smart decisions about your home's heating and cooling system is important to your overall comfort—and can have an even greater impact on your wallet.

The average family spends approximately \$2,200 per year on energy bills. Heating and cooling costs account for as much as half of this amount. So what's a homeowner to do?

The experts at Luxaire recommend reducing costs by improving the efficiency of your heating and cooling system. That means properly maintaining the system, sealing ducts, installing a programmable thermostat and replacing aging equipment with new, high-efficiency products.

Properly maintaining your equipment can prevent future problems and eliminate unbudgeted expenses. It is recommended that you inspect your filter every month and clean or change it as required. A dirty filter will reduce airflow, making the system work harder and wasting energy in the process. Next, schedule a NATE-certified technician to inspect your system, preferably before the heating or cooling season begins. If you suspect or discover a leak in your duct system, ask the technician to do the necessary repairs. By properly sealing ducts, homeowners can increase their system efficiency by as much as 20 percent.

One of the easiest steps homeowners can take to reduce energy costs is the installation of a programmable thermostat. If properly set and maintained, programmable thermostats can help save up to \$180 per year, just by regulating the temperature of the house while you are asleep or away.



Replacing an old home comfort system can reduce your energy bills. Be sure your new model is ENERGY STAR qualified.

If your system is more than 10 years old or it's not keeping your house comfortable, it's a good idea to have it evaluated by a professional contractor and consider replacing it with an ENERGY STAR-qualified unit. Replacing old equipment can cut annual energy bills by almost \$200.

Luxaire offers a number of sustainable home comfort systems that carry the ENERGY STAR logo, including air conditioners and heat pumps that use environmentally friendly R-410A refrigerant with a seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) as high as 18.5 and a heating season performance factor (HSPF) as high as 10.0. They also offer the most efficient gas furnace available today, which includes an annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) as high as 98.0 percent. Many of these products qualify for up to \$1,500 in federal tax credits, as well as most local utility rebates, while also saving you money on your monthly utility bills.

To learn more, visit www.luxaire.com or call (877) 874-7378.