

# HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

## Reduce Costs And Increase Comfort This Winter

(NAPSA)—Winter is approaching and it's time to prepare your home for the cold temperatures, snow, ice and windy conditions. Once cold air moves in, it doesn't take long for heating costs to skyrocket, and stocking your home with essential supplies will better prepare you and your family for the winter months ahead. Many factors need to be considered when choosing how to winterize your home, particularly safety and efficiency.

Purchase items that will save energy costs and keep the area in and around your home safe. According to Discovery.com, the average winter temperature in the United States is 35 degrees. Falling temperatures lead to rising heating bills, but by winterizing your home properly, you can reduce winter energy costs. Every home should have a few basic essentials on hand to help keep costs down and increase safety. Have these items handy and take stock of your winter supplies early and often, so you don't have to fight the crowds and the weather.

- **Snow Shovel.** Buy a shovel that is light and sturdy. Keep your walkways and driveways clear of snow. When shoveling, do not overexert yourself and lift heavy snow by bending at the knees so you do not injure your back.

- **Salt.** Make sure that you have a bag of salt available throughout the winter to throw down on your walkways and driveways in order to melt snow and prevent icing. Keeping high traffic areas clear lessens the chance of slipping and falling.

- **Window Roll-On Kits.** Use window roll-on kits to keep the warm air inside and the cold air out. Duck® brand's Roll-On Window Insulator Kits are easy to install, and have a pre-taped edge for easy adhesion.

- **Outlet Covers.** Place covers on all electrical outlets. One place heat escapes and cold air enters the house is through uninsulated outlets. Place Duck® brand Socket Sealers directly behind the cover plate to easily increase energy savings in your home.

- **Weatherseals.** The majority of heat escapes the home through



**There are a number of steps homeowners can take to save energy during the winter.**

gaps around doors and windows. Seal off these areas with a weatherseal to block these openings and seal heat inside the home. The Duck® brand provides a complete line of self-adhesive rubber weatherseals that come in five different varieties to effectively block any size gap. Make sure the surface is clean before you apply to ensure the seal sticks firmly in place.

- **Water Heater Blanket.** Insulate your water heater with a water heater blanket. These blankets can reduce operating costs up to 15 percent. Be sure, however, that you note which blankets are appropriate for your specific water heater model.

- **Automatic Thermostat.** Programming the thermostat allows the unit to turn off while you are sleeping or are away from home. This will help reduce energy costs while keeping your family comfortable at home.

- **Doormats.** Place doormats inside each entrance to your home, making a space to dry wet shoes and boots. This will keep the floors dry and help to prevent slipping.

Most of these items are affordable and available at your local superstore. A well-thought-out winterization plan will not only ensure you have everything you need for winter, but you will also have more time to enjoy your favorite cold weather pastimes in your warm, cozy home. It is never too early or too late to protect your home, your bills and your family from the severe weather.

To learn more about these and other Duck brand home energy efficiency products, visit the Web site at [www.duckproducts.com](http://www.duckproducts.com) or call 1-800-321-0253.