

Home Energy Tips

Spending On Your HVAC System Can Mean Savings

(NAPSA)—Any time of year can be the right time to take a closer look at your home's heating and cooling systems. Monitoring the system's status regularly is one way to make sure everything is running at peak efficiency.

If a furnace or the air conditioner is more than 10 years old, or if the unit is not operating properly, it may be time to consider replacing it.

In addition, here are some simple things you can do to save energy and lower your utility bills if replacement is not on your agenda yet:

- Change the filter regularly—The air filter should be changed at least every three months. In addition to helping your system run as efficiently as possible, a clean filter will help extend your system's life span and reduce odors, dust and allergens circulating in your home.

- Install a programmable thermostat—To take the guesswork out of setting the thermostat and to ensure year-round comfort, consider a programmable thermostat. Most can be installed in under an hour and some are even preprogrammed with optimum energy-saving temperature settings.

- Add insulation to your ceiling—A properly insulated home can use less energy in the winter for heating and less energy in the summer for cooling. You can save up to 30 percent on your home's energy costs by insulating your attic to the proper R-value, which is the standard rating for how well insulation works. Savings, however, can vary. To learn more about R-values and insulating power, consult a resource such as the Web



MAKE SAVING A BREEZE—you can save up to 30 percent on your home's energy costs by insulating your attic to the proper R-value.

site at homedepot.com. Experts there can help you understand how R-values work and determine the right insulation for your home.

If your utility bills are still out of control or certain parts of your home are uncomfortably hot or cold, check the SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio) on your unit. The minimum rating allowed to be manufactured today is 13, so if your system is rated below today's standard, you may be able to lower your energy costs with a newer, more efficient system.

Using the services of a professional, such as the staff at The Home Depot Home Services, can make replacing a heating and cooling system a breeze. They provide installation services and finance options.

To learn more or to schedule a free in-home consultation from a technician, visit homedepot.com/installation or call (800) HOME DEPOT.

Note to Editors: The license numbers of licensed technicians are available at www.homedepot.com/licensenumbers.