



TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Tips To Help Combat Higher Home Heating Bills

(NAPSA)—A decline in supplies of oil and natural gas—combined with predictions of colder than usual weather—mean homeowners may pay more to heat their homes this year. Fortunately, there are several ways to conserve fuel and reduce costs.

Here are some tips from the experts at CertainTeed Home Institute:

Upgrading Attic Insulation: Check the attic and the attic floor to make sure there is at least 12" of insulation. If not, upgrade to the latest recommended level of insulation for your geographic area.

Insulating Your Basement: Insulate your basement walls if they are not already insulated. They should be insulated to at least an R-10 if they are more than 50 percent below the grade. If they are more than 50 percent above grade, they should be insulated to the same levels recommended for above grade walls.

Installing Storm Windows and Doors: Replace single pane windows with double or triple paned windows. If you don't have storm windows, install a clear plastic film across the inside of your windows and frame. It traps a pocket of air to effectively insulate.

Installing an Automatic Set-back or Programmable Thermostat: Programmable thermostats can lower or raise home temperatures around your schedule. When you're working, program it to a cooler temperature, in the 60s. When you're back, raise it into the 70s. These measures can



Programmable thermostats can help you save up to 10 percent on your annual heating or cooling bills.

help save up to 10 percent on your annual heating and cooling bill.

Insulating Your Sidewalls: A professional insulation contractor can help determine how much insulation you have and suggest ways to upgrade to Department of Energy (DOE) standards.

Checking Your Furnace: To improve the efficiency of an existing furnace, change furnace filters frequently. Also clean air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators as needed. Change forced air heating system air filters monthly as well.

Weatherstripping, Caulking and Sealing: Check to see that all air cracks around window and door facings, electrical box openings and plumbing penetrations, the joints of corner trim and siding and the joints of roof eaves are caulked and weather-stripped to

avoid heat loss.

Insulating Your Floors and Crawlspaces: Make sure floors are insulated with at least 6¼" thick R-19 fiber glass insulation.

Checking Your Water Heater for Insulation: Check to see that your water heater is well insulated. If not, wrap it with fiber glass insulation.

Installing Special Fireplace Devices/Features: Many fireplaces have the capability to circulate warm air in a room through vent systems. Some also have automatic flue dampers which open when the fireplace is in use, but close automatically when it is not to keep heat from escaping through the chimney.

Installing Insulation Around Ducts and Pipes: Insulated pipes keep hot water flowing through them hotter. Insulated ducts can increase the energy efficiency of your heating and cooling system.

Taking Advantage of Solar Energy: Opening the drapes on sunny winter days can let sunshine in to naturally warm your home. Closing them at night can reduce heat loss.

Planting Trees and Shrubs: Strategically planted landscaping in your yard can help reduce your energy costs. Deciduous trees—those that drop their leaves in the fall—are best planted in front of sunny windows.

For more energy-efficient tips, call CertainTeed Home Institute at 1-800-782-8777 for the free pamphlet *Tips to Head Off High Heating Bills* or visit the the Web site at www.certainteed.com.