

## Reduce Home Heating Costs this Winter

As the temperature cools, the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation offers the following money-saving tips to reduce heating costs:

1. Change your furnace filter monthly and your furnace cleaned annually.
2. Make sure your home is properly insulated.
3. Weather strip doors and windows.
4. Open curtains on the sunny side of your home to let the sun in and close curtains on the shady side
5. Install a programmable thermostat so you can lower the heat when no one is home and at night while everyone is sleeping.
6. Close heating vents or turn back thermostats in areas of your house you don't use regularly, and close the doors.
7. Keep baseboard heaters and radiators clean and make sure your furniture and curtains are not blocking the vents.
8. Minimize your use of bathroom or kitchen hood ventilation fans.
9. Wrap your water heater in an insulation blanket to prevent heat loss.
10. Wash only full loads of clothes or dishes at a time and use cold water.
11. Take shorter showers.



Check with your utility company's efficiency programs. Many will pay for programmable thermostats and some even subsidize roof insulation.



Due to the high cost of fuel oil many home owners are choosing alternative fuels such as firewood to heat their homes. If you plan to use wood burning fireplaces and stoves to supplement the heat in your home, remember that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regulates the terms in which firewood can be sold. To view the regulations on firewood visit the Massachusetts Division of Standards at Firewood Sales and for more on home heating, visit the Department of Energy at Home Home Heating.