

Reduce Home Heating Costs this Winter

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

1. Change your furnace filter monthly and clean your furnace annually.
2. Make sure your home is properly insulated.
3. Use weather strips on 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. Take shorter showers.
8. Wrap your water heater in an insulation blanket to prevent heat loss.
9. Keep baseboard heaters clean and bleed your radiators. Be sure your furniture and curtains are not blocking the vents.
10. Wash only full loads of clothes at a time and use cold water.
11. Only run the dishwasher when you have a full load of dishes.
12. Minimize your use of ventilation fans in the bathroom or kitchen hood.



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



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 Division of Standards at Firewood Sales and for more on home heating, visit the Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs at Home Heating.