

Ways to Save on Your Home Heating Bill



Everyone is looking for ways to save money these days, as prices are rising on just about everything. If you live in a state prone to cold weather and use gas, oil, electricity, or a wood stove, there are numerous ways you can save on heating costs for your home this winter:

1. Turn Down the Thermostat

Setting your thermostat between 68 and 72 degrees when there are people inside the home and 58 and 62 degrees when the house is empty (or you are asleep) can help you minimize your energy usage and costs. While you may want to set the temperature lower at some points of the day, you don't want your pipes to freeze and burst, leading to pricey repairs.

2. Use a Smart or Digital Thermostat

Installing a smart or digital thermostat, which can be controlled from your smartphone or tablet, is another way to save on your heating bill. These types of thermostats will allow you to control the temperature when you're not home and will notify you of maintenance needs and energy usage. Some energy companies even offer rebates or discounts for switching from a traditional thermostat.

3. Remove AC Units

Hopefully you already removed your window air conditioner units. If you haven't, make sure to do so, as leaving them exposed to the elements can be hazardous to the unit and can let cold air inside your home.

4. Check or Add Insulation

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the insulation in your home provides resistance to heat flow. You should check to make sure you have enough insulation by putting down an extra layer in your attic and/or adding blown-in insulation to existing walls or adding proper insulation during any renovations to your home when the walls are open.

5. Seal Doors and Windows

In addition to checking insulation, sealing windows and doors with new weatherstripping will help to keep cold air out and warm air inside.

6. Check Ducts

Ducts are another way that cold air can seep into your home, causing your home heating costs to soar. While you can hire a professional to repair the duct leaks, you can also opt to seal them yourself with metal tape or mastic sealant.

7. Reverse Ceiling Fans

If your ceiling fan has a reverse switch, you can run the fan in a clockwise direction after heat is turned on for a good way to circulate all that heat that is rising and to save on energy costs.

8. Let Sunlight In

Simply opening your blinds and curtains during the day will allow sunlight in to warm up your home.

9. Close the Fireplace Damper

Fireplaces are a great way to keep warm! But when you're not using it, make sure your damper is closed so no cold air is leaking into the house.

10. Have the Furnace Serviced

Your furnace should be inspected by a licensed contractor annually and replaced when recommended. Having the furnace cleaned and inspected can help you avoid a fire or interruption in service. Plus: a dirty filter makes your furnace work harder and leads to a price increase on your heating bill.

Hopefully these tips were helpful in preparing your home for the colder days ahead and helped you save money! Just as important as winterizing your home, make sure you also have the right coverage for your home and auto insurance with MAPFRE by talking to an independent agent in your state today!

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