

## Don't Fall Behind in Preparing Your Home for Winter

Set your thermostat to 68° or lower during the cold months. Set the thermostat to 55° when no one is home for more than four hours.

Every month, replace the air filters for your heating and cooling system.

Seal duct joints with mastic or high-quality duct tape. Insulate ducts in unconditioned areas of your home.

Make sure your fireplace damper is closed when not in use.

If you have a gas fireplace, turn the pilot off during the warm and hot months.

Caulk any small gaps around the fixed joints of windows and doorframes.

Weather-strip all moveable joints on windows and doors.

During the cold months, remove solar screens. Allow sunlight to enter your home during the day by raising blinds or opening curtains. Cover windows during nighttime hours to prevent heat loss.

Promptly turn-off kitchen, bath, or other ventilating fans off when not in use.

Install an insulating wrap for your water heater.

Drain a quart of water from your water heater every 3 months to remove sediment that lowers the efficiency of your water heater.

Take 5-minute showers instead of baths or longer showers.

Make sure you only use your washer and dryer with full loads.

When purchasing new appliances, buy the most energy-efficient model possible.



**For More Energy Saving Tips, visit the US Department of Energy's website:**

**<http://www.energy.gov/energysavingtips.htm>**

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