

Winter Energy and Money Saving Tips

As cold weather approaches, most homeowners are aware that their utility costs increase significantly throughout the winter months. Here are some simple steps you can take to reduce energy levels plus reduce costs at home this winter:

- Make sure walls, attics, and floors are well insulated.
- Weather-strip or caulk areas around windows and doors to seal air leaks.
- Consider switching to compact fluorescent lighting. Compact fluorescent bulbs use approximately 75% less energy than incandescent bulbs. They cost more than regular bulbs, however they last ten times longer and eventually pay for themselves in energy savings.
- Keep your furnace clean and change your furnace filter monthly during the heating season to maintain efficiency.
- Wrap your hot water tank with jacket insulation, which can reduce standby heat loss from your tank.
- Recycle old newspapers and use them in rolls to burn in the fireplace instead of using logs. Be sure to soak the newspaper rolls in water and let them completely dry before using them.
- Consider using non-toxic deicers such as clean clay cat litter, sand, or fireplace ash to prevent hazardous chemicals from melting into nearby stormwater drainage systems.

For more information on winter energy savings, please visit the Environmental Protection Agency's Website at www.epa.gov.