



## *Ten Tips for Reducing Heating Bills*

Summarized below are tips which you can do yourself, many are free. These small tips can help you save big.

1. Doors and windows which are not in use during winter should be insulated with a window kit. This is really important if you have older windows or feel drafts.
2. Add window stripping
3. Wear a sweater or wrap. It's winter, the inside of your house does not need to feel like summer. Set a comfortable temperature then go down a degree or two. It doesn't cost anything to wear warmer clothes, and is a good reason to snuggle up!
4. If you are baking or using your oven, leave the door open slightly after you are done. Residual heat will make your kitchen and dining space toasty warm.
5. Use silicone to fill gaps around windows and doors.
6. Use spray foam insulation around electrical outlets.
7. Close heating vents in rooms not used. Also close the doors to those same rooms.
8. Seal opening to attic if you have one.
9. Use your fireplace if it provides heat (not all do, believe it or not)
10. If you leave the house for an extended time frame it is ok to drastically reduce the thermometer. But remember it may take a while for it to catch up with you when you get home so you may want to have a friend or neighbor stop by to raise it the day before.

These tips are common sense. Being good stewards of our own energy use is a good contribution to not only the world, but are also good for our pocketbook. Of course, if you want exponential savings, then you may want to investigate new windows and insulation.

These are topics for another day.

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