



25 TIPS

WINTERIZING YOUR HOME, SAFELY.



1. Consider using green alternatives to traditional insulation. Several options include cellulose and spray foam.
2. Learn from the old timers! Plant evergreens close to your home and consider planting a windbreak on your property. A windbreak can save up to 30% in energy costs.
3. Install a permanent furnace filter to save waste and to keep your air clean.
4. Tune up your furnace. Maintenance from a trained professional can keep your furnace running efficiently and prevent damage to your home from burst or frozen pipes.
5. Wrap the windows in plastic to keep out those arctic blasts.
6. You can also use bubble wrap to cover your windows. The air in the bubbles helps to insulate even more.
7. Install weather stripping.
8. Add a door sweep to each exterior door.
9. Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic.
10. Clean the clothes dryer exhaust duct, damper and space under the dryer.
11. Cover your water heater with an insulating blanket.
12. Head to your local feed store and buy straw bales to place around the foundation of your home. This will block cold air and help keep the floors warmer, especially if you have pier and beam.
13. Check the duct-work where it is exposed.
14. While you are checking the duct-work consider insulating it as well. This helps keep the heated air warm as it moves through unheated spaces under the house or in the attic.
15. Reverse the direction on your ceiling fans. This will push the hot air down and help it recirculate through out the house.
16. Install foam insulation gaskets around your electrical outlets and keep the outlets covered when not in use.
17. Installing storm doors and windows can save you up to 45% on your energy bill.
18. Move furniture off your vents.
19. Shut the door on rooms you don't use, if there are any.
20. If you have a two story house the upstairs will always be warmer than the downstairs. Spend more time up there.
21. Improve the air quality of your home. Sealing your thermal envelope too tightly can be dangerous if you don't look out for your air quality. Get a heat recovery ventilator if you seal your house up tight.
22. Open the curtains on the south/west side of the house during the day to get the most of the sun's warmth. Close up at night to keep out the cold.
23. Use non-vinyl blackout curtains to trap the heat in and keep the cold out.
24. Another old fashioned fix it to hang a thick curtain in front of the door. Use the round hangers and you can easily push it aside to open the door.
25. If you go on vacation, leave the heat on, set to at least 55°.

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