



# ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR FALL



## **1. Set back your thermostat.**

This seems so simple. It takes just 5 seconds, and it could shave \$30 a month on your energy bill. Adjust it to the coolest level that's comfortable. Caution: Don't set the thermostat more than 5 degrees cooler than the normal rating when you're away because of the amount of energy you'll need to heat it back up.

## **2. Clean warm air registers, baseboard heaters and/or radiators.**

Make sure that carpeting, furniture or draperies are not blocking them. Putting furniture over registers, or in front of radiators blocks the amount of heat that register/radiator can emit into the room, thus causing your system to run longer cycles, and will cost you more money to operate.

## **3. Close the fireplace flue.**

Fall and winter fires in the fireplace are warm, cozy and just plain wonderful, but an open flue damper draws warm air out of your house 24-hours a day. Your system will have to work overtime to heat up the house if a flue is left open. If you do shut your flue on a regular basis but still feel like you might be losing heat out of the chimney, do a quick match test.

## **4. Consider a humidifier.**

The health benefits from a humidifier are known, but the fall/winter energy savings you can get from a humidifier can be as high as 20%. Humidity keeps your warm, forced air trapped in the living area in the house longer, thus satisfying your thermostat longer.

## **5. Get a heating tune-up.**

This can save money, spot a danger, and make you more comfortable. Getting a tune up is the best way to avoid having to pay for a sudden, emergency repair that's likely to happen at the least convenient time possible. ie, the coldest day of the year!

## **6. Have your duct work checked for leaks.**

If you've got split, fallen, or perforated duct work, then fixing these issues can save you a bundle! You should keep all the warm air you are paying for inside your home.

## **7. Change your return air filters.**

How often do you change your air filter? A blocked return from a filter can cause your system to work much harder than usual as well as not provide the temperature that you desire inside the home. Save more by spending a little to change your filter more often.

## **8. Lower your dishwasher and washing machine temperatures.**

Your dishwasher and washing machine use hot water from your house supply and drain it in a hurry. Heating up all of that water is much more costly in cold weather.

## **9. Consider storm windows or more efficient windows.**

Although sometimes expensive, these can pay for themselves. Just getting a quote and estimate of savings will help you to see how helpful they can be.

## **10. Seal all pipe penetrations into your house.**

Where is the warm air? (inside the house) Where is the cold air? (outside the house) You should consider your crawlspace and attic areas "outside" your house. These places are not conditioned and yet they have hundreds of penetrations for water pipes, sewer lines, vent stacks, etc. Take a can of spray insulation from your local hardware store and seal up all those penetrations. Much like a leaky flue (see #3), these small penetrations add up and can be extremely costly over the course of a year if left untreated.