

## 10 Steps To Snug Up Your House

Before spending money on a new furnace (or air conditioner) consider tightening up your house first.

1. Caulk and seal every hole that penetrates the house (chimney, fireplace damper, windows, plumbing, pipes, and electrical outlets on outside walls).
2. Insulate your living space from all un-insulated spaces (attic, basement, crawl space or foundation) as well as the heating ducts running through any of those unheated spaces.
3. Add weather stripping around doors and windows.
4. Buy and install a programmable thermostat so that the house is warm when you return home or when you get up in the morning.
5. Set your thermostat to between 65 and 70 degrees during the hours you are in the house and awake and turn the heat down to 55 to 60 when everyone is out of the house or at night when everyone is in bed. Experiment with this temperature to find the lowest comfortable temperature for your family.
6. Keep doors closed to unused rooms, and cabinets and closets on all outside walls.
7. Make sure furniture and curtains are not stopping or slowing the hot air coming from air vents or radiators.
8. Clean or replace filters regularly for more efficient airflow.
9. Open drapes and blinds to the south and west during the day for a little free solar heating and close them after sundown.

Conserving energy saves money, lowers energy prices and, in the larger picture, reduces waste and pollution from enlarged power plants.

Each of us can take action today to reduce energy use at home this winter, while still staying comfortable. Seemingly small steps, taken together, can make a big difference in terms of lowering our personal and national energy bill and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.