

For those months when the temperatures are cold and your home utilizes its heating unit be sure to:

- Keep your thermostat at the lowest comfortable temperature, 68 to 70 degrees is recommended.
- Homeowners can save about \$180 a year by properly setting their programmable thermostats and maintaining those settings. Set the temperature down 8 degrees at night or while you are gone for the day.
- If you have a heat pump, adjust your thermostat in 1 degree increments to avoid the operation of the unit's emergency heat strip. Use of this heat strip greatly increases your energy usage. Heat Pumps should have Programmable thermostats with the "Adaptive Recovery/ Smart Recovery" feature. This feature allows the Heat Pump to ramp up gradually to the desired temperature which minimizes the chance that the Aux strip heat will come on.
- Is your heating system working properly? Have your Heating system serviced annually.
- Change the filters monthly. Dirty filters make the system work harder.
- Don't block your heat supply or return air vents with furniture or other objects.
- Don't block your outside heating unit or stack anything on or against the heat pump.
- Check your heating system's ductwork. Ensure that it is well insulated, has no kinks or tight bends and has no holes or has become disconnected. Leaky ductwork can increase your heating bill by 30%.
- Remove window air conditioning units during winter months to prevent heat from escaping through and around the unit. If it cannot be moved, buy an inexpensive cover to prevent drafts.
- Make sure your fireplace damper seals tightly and remains closed except when a fire is burning or smoldering in the fireplace. Be aware that open hearth fireplaces send more heat from the house up the chimney than there is heat sent into the room by the fire.
- Open drapes and curtains to let the sun in during the day to reduce heating costs.
- Close drapes and curtains at night to save money and improve comfort.
- Check all your windows and doors to be sure they seal tightly when closed.
- Is your home sealed tight and draft free? Drafts can increase your heating bill by 20%.
- Is your home's insulation up to current standard? Is some missing or compressed. There should be about 13" or R-38 in attics, R-13 for walls and 6" or R-19 in crawl space floors.