

## 5 Ways To Save on Heat

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) has five sure-fire ways for cost-conscious consumers to nip winter heating costs in the bud:

- 1. Fight the draft.** Rope caulk the air leaks around your windows. Stop breezes from coming under your doors with door sweeps. Keep storm windows closed.
- 2. Dial down.** Turning the thermostat down 10 degrees for eight hours at night then again during the day can save you 14% on your heating bill. Consider installing a clock thermostat to do the work automatically.
- 3. Put it under wraps.** If your water heater is in an unheated space like an unfinished basement, it's likely to lose energy through its outside casing. An insulating blanket costs between \$20 and \$30 and pays for itself in a year.
- 4. Easy fixes.** Close chimney flues when you're not using your fireplace. Seal any unused fireplaces in your house. Keep the drapes closed on north-facing windows; let the sun shine in through your south-facing windows.
- 5. Go straight to the source.** Contact your local gas and electric company to see if it has any special deals for energy-efficient customers. Some may offer discounts for programmable thermostats.

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