



Winterization tips for your home:

Run Ceiling fans in reverse. Cut heating costs up to 10% by pulling cooler air to the ceiling to warm it and re-circulate warm air that collects at the ceiling.

Drafts waste 5-30% of your energy use. Roll up a bath towel and place it on the floor against the outside doors. Use caulking and weather stripping around drafty windows.

Change furnace filters monthly. Disposable fiberglass filters are wasteful and trap only 10-40% of debris. Electrostatic filters can trap up to 88% of debris. True HEPA filters (not "HEPA-like" filters) can trap up to 99% of airborne particles like pollen, dust, mold, and bacteria.

Remove window air conditioners. Empty garden hoses, outside water lines, and air conditioner pipes.

Lower your hot water heater thermostat from 140 to 120 degrees to save up to 10% on electricity.

Install storm doors and windows to create a pocket of air between the inside and outside. This can increase energy efficiency by up to 45%. Or use a window insulation kit to cover your windows with clear plastic. Or hire a professional to install "low-e" film on the glass.

Give your furnace a tune-up to increase its life span and make it run more efficiently.

Lower your thermostat and wear a sweater. Every degree you lower it will save between 1-3% on your heating bill. Use a programmable thermostat to reduce heating when you are not home or at night when you sleep.

Check the insulation under your home and heat tape around your water pipes to make sure it's working properly. Check the tape around the joints on your hot air ducts for air leaks.

Take advantage of tax credits when you install energy efficient appliances and systems. Check with your local utility companies which may have low-cost or free winterization assistance programs.

Make sure dryer vents are not obstructed with lint that can cause a fire and that roof, attic, eave, and basement vents are not obstructed by objects such as nests or shrubs blocking the flow of air.

Check that smoke and CO2 alarms have fresh batteries and that fire extinguishers have been serviced and certified for the coming year.