

# ICC Smart Tips



# Winter Energy Savings

Now is the time to prepare your home against extremely cold temperatures this winter. By following a few easy tips, you can stay comfortable while saving energy and money to heat your home.

## Did you know?

- The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat at 68 degrees while you are awake and home, lower at night and when you are away.
- You can save 10% a year on cooling and heating if you set your thermostat back 7%-10% for 8 hours a day from its normal setting.
- Water heating accounts for 14-18% of a homeowner's utility bill. Turn down your water heater to 120 degrees to save money.

\*U.S. Department of Energy & U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## Steps to Keep Warm and Save Money this Winter

- Install smart thermostats that automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings.
- Check with your utility about enrolling in time-based electricity rates programs to reduce energy usage during peak hours or to learn about energy efficiency services they may offer.
- Cover the inside of drafty windows with heavy plastic and seal tightly to the frame to avoid air infiltration. Check exterior door and window frames for leaks, use caulk or weather stripping to seal.
- Use insulated curtains, shades or other energy-efficient window treatments.
- Schedule a maintenance service call for your heating system. Be sure to change filters on furnace and heat pumps at least once a month. For wood and pellet burning heaters, clean the flue vent regularly, and clean the interior of appliances with a wire brush.
- If you have an older water heater tank, consider adding an insulated jacket or blanket. Insulating a water tank can save between 7 - 16% in water heating costs.
- On sunny days allow natural light to filter in south-facing windows to help warm your home.
- Reverse the direction of ceiling fan blades to circulate warm air.
- If you have a fireplace keep the damper closed unless a fire is burning.
- If using the fireplace, close off the room if possible, open a nearby window slightly, and lower your thermostat setting between 50-55 degrees.
- Lower your holiday decorating costs by using LED holiday light strings.

For more information visit the U.S. Department of Energy website at:

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver>

