

be trading in their lawn mowers for snowblowers. While there are still weeks of mild, sunny days to enjoy the outdoors, here are a few simple things you can do to prepare your home for the winter to stay warm and save money:

## **FURNACE MAINTENANCE**

Change furnace filters and tune up your heating system. Clean, lubricated and properly adjusted furnaces will reduce energy use saving you up to 5% in heating costs.

Insulate pipes with R-3 pre-slit foam and R-7 batt style to wrap around your furnace and you can save 3-16% annually.

Properly sealed ducts can save an average home \$140 annually. However, "duct cleaning" is unnecessary unless you specifically have an air quality problem.

Upgrade to an Efficient Furnace and save 50% or more on your bills. Take advantage of federal tax credits for new furnaces which can cover up to \$150 for furnace and \$50 for advanced main air circulating fans.

## **WINDOWS & DOORS**

Caulking and weather stripping, insulation can potentially save 10-20% on heating and cooling bills

Use a draft dodger under drafty attic and basement doors to reduce energy waste 5-30%

Installing storm doors and windows increase energy efficiency by 45%

## **YOUR LIVING SPACE**

Set ceiling fans to run in reverse to circulate warm air downward. This can cut heating costs as much as 10%

Turn down the thermostat when you leave the house. For every degree you lower the thermostat during the heating season, you'll save between 1-3% on your heating bill.

Turning down your water heater to 120 (or lower) could reduce your water heating costs by 4-22%

Put on a sweater. Generally speaking a light long-sleeved sweater is worth about 2 degrees of added warmth, heavy sweaters add about 4 degrees.

You can leave your hat on. A person loses 7 to 10% of their body heat through their head. Just remember to remove it when you're at the holiday dinner table.

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