



SERG ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

(See Home Efficiency Calculator on other side)

About three-quarters of energy used in New England homes is for heating and cooling. Here are a number of free or low-cost tips for buttoning up your home to help you save energy, save money and be comfortable this winter.

- **Close interior doors and turn off the heat** to any rooms that are unused during the winter. Make sure plumbing in those rooms does not freeze and that moisture does not condense on cold wall surfaces.
- **Setting your thermostat back** while you are sleeping and away from home will save about 1% on your fuel use for each degree set back for 8 hours a day. Using a programmable thermostat to do this will let you bring the heat back up to a comfortable temperature before you get up in the morning or return home.
- Turn on your hot water and let it run for a couple of minutes. If it is too hot to hold your hand under the water, **turn the thermostat on your hot water tank down to 120°**.
- **Find & Seal Air Leaks** – Air leakage is the greatest source of heat loss in most homes. Warm air rises and flows out openings high in the house, pulling cold air in through leaks low in the house. These leaks are easiest to find on cold days and are usually very inexpensive to repair. Feel for cool drafts coming in low areas – where the sill meets the foundation, through holes for pipes and wires and around doors and windows. Hold something that smokes, like incense, and look for smoke being sucked out along potential openings high in the building – attic hatches, upper floor windows, ceiling lights and electric outlets, etc. Seal all high and low openings with weather stripping, spray foam or caulk.
- **Weather-strip** all exterior doors, including attic hatch, bulkhead door and doors to cold cellars and crawl spaces. Check and replace weather stripping when worn. If your exterior doors jiggle when closed, **move the striker/latch plate closer to the doorstop** so the door closes snugly against the weather stripping or add new weather stripping that snugs up against the door.
- **Install storm windows and doors.** Close and latch them tightly.
- **Permanently caulk-closed all leaky windows and exterior doors** that you never open.
- **Close chimney and fireplace dampers** when not in use. If chimney is unused, install an inflatable chimney pillow or caulked-in foam plug to better seal. Consider installing an energy efficient wood stove insert in fire place opening.
- **Cover leaky windows** with an interior plastic "storm" product, like Tyz-All, available at Energy Federation Inc. (800-876-0660, www.efi.org). Tyz-All can be removed in the spring and reused next winter or left in place indefinitely. It will usually pay for itself in one year. See SERG Window Weatherization handout for more tips.
- **Make sure all fan-driven exterior vents (dryer, stove, bathroom, etc.) have an exterior flap that closes tightly** when the fan is off. Clear vent flaps of lint and other debris so they close tightly.
- If you can feel any heat coming from your hot water tank or hot water pipes, cover them with an **insulated tank wrap jacket or foam pipe insulation** available at your local hardware store or Energy Federation Inc. (above).

***NOTE:** Homes do require a certain amount of fresh air to prevent mold build up and back drafting of flu gases and to keep occupants healthy. Fresh air is best supplied in a controlled manner through powered and programmed fresh air vents. A blower door test can measure if you have adequate ventilation. For more information contact SERG.*