



Preparing Your Home for Cold Weather

In California, 30 percent of energy use in the home is for heating and cooling. Adding insulation, blocking leaks, and replacing old equipment can cut your energy use significantly and help you save money on your utility bills in the winter months. Keep your energy bill low and stay comfortable this winter using these tips.



Check your Heating Equipment

- Look at the filter on your furnace. If it's dirty, clean or replace it as instructed by the manufacturer
- If it's been awhile since you've had a routine maintenance checkup for your furnace, schedule it before the weather gets cold and the waiting lists are long
- If your heating equipment is old, upgrading to an ENERGY STAR® certified replacement could cut your heating costs by more than half



- Add gaskets (available at most hardware stores) behind outlet and switch plate covers
- If you have a fireplace, get in the habit of closing the flue when it's not in use
- Replacing single pane windows with new ENERGY STAR® models can lower your energy bill 7-15 percent

Insulate

- Check your insulation and replace it or add more if it's below these "R" values: Ceilings—R-30, walls—R-11, floors—R-19. (The "R" values indicate how well it insulates. A higher "R" value means better insulation.)
- If you have an old water heater tank, wrap it with an insulating jacket (being careful not to cover the air intake valve) to save up to 10 percent on water heating costs

When the Weather Turns Cold

- Cover bare floors
- Open drapes during the day
- Move furniture away from vents
- Close off unused rooms and their vents

Test for Leaks and Seal Them

- Look around the house for places where cold air can enter — like around doors, windows, outlets, switch plates, and pipes or wires coming from the walls



- If in doubt, hold a long match or stick of incense near the suspect areas to see if there is a draft
- Save up to \$50 a year by using caulk and weather stripping to seal leaks around doors and windows

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manage your energy use.



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