

Stay warm, save money



When temperatures drop, energy bills are higher. Duke Energy offers some simple energy (and money) saving tips:

- Check your heating system's ductwork to ensure that it is well insulated and completely covered. Ductwork should be properly sealed and not allowed to hang loose under the house.
- Keep your thermostat at a comfortable setting. If you are going to be away for several days, turn the thermostat to a lower setting, but not off.
- Have your heating or cooling system checked each season by a qualified technician to make sure it is operating properly. Heating and cooling account for at least half of your energy bill.
- Check insulation, seal cracks, and weather-strips between heated and unheated areas such as garages, basements, and attics.
- If you have a window air conditioning unit, remove it for the winter months to prevent heat from escaping through and around the unit. If it cannot be moved, cover it to prevent drafts.
- Always make sure the fireplace damper seals tightly and remains closed except when a fire is burning or smoldering in the fireplace.
- Insulate your water heater with at least R-6 insulation. The water heater is the second-largest energy user in your home. You can save enough money in energy bills to pay back the cost of materials within months and then keep on saving.
- Ceiling fans help keep you comfortable in the summer and winter. Reversing the direction of the blades pushes warm air down into the room. Fans should turn counter-clockwise in the summer and clockwise in the winter.
- On sunny days, leave the draperies open to allow the sun's rays to warm your house.