

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SAVE HEAT AND MONEY

- **Turn the heat down.** Reduce the thermostat setting when everyone is asleep or away from the home. Consider installing a programmable thermostat.

- **Block the leaks.** Check the most common areas that leak, such as window and door frames, attic hatches, and electrical outlets. Use weather-stripping, door sweeps, foam, and caulking to seal up the leaks.

- **Insulate.** You should have a minimum of 12 inches of insulation in your attic. If you don't know how to tell, look at your ceiling joists. If you can see them, you need more insulation.

- **Wrap the pipes.** Look for pipes in the crawl-space, basement, and garage that aren't insulated. Wrap them with pre-molded foam rubber sleeves available at hardware and building supply stores. Before the temperature hits freezing, make certain that the water to your hose is shut off inside your house and that the excess is drained.

- **Clean ducts and baseboards.** Hot air ducts should be cleaned once every few years. Clean hot air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed. Make sure furniture, carpeting and drapes do not block them.

- **Don't forget the windows.** Storm windows are critical, especially if you have old, single-pane glass windows. You could also try a plastic sheeting kit from your local hardware store. It is relatively inexpensive, can be quite effective, and is easy to remove in the spring.

- **Clean the chimney.** Make sure your chimney has been inspected before you start using it for the year. Chimneys need to be swept periodically. Woodstove chimneys should be cleaned once a year. To keep cold air out, fireplace and woodstove owners should keep the damper closed when it isn't in use.

- **Clean the furnace.** It is a good idea to have the furnace cleaned and serviced annually. Research shows you can save 10% on fuel use with a properly maintained furnace.

- **Turn down and insulate your water heater.** Set the water heater temperature to 120° Fahrenheit or lower. Check the manufacturer's label to determine if insulating the heater is recommended. Use caution when insulating gas-fired water heaters.

- **Take the NH Carbon Challenge.** Carbon Challenge takers have reduced their energy bills by an average of \$841 a year. Visit <http://carbonchallenge.sr.unh.edu/> to find out how you can start saving now.

What Is Stay Warm NH?

Stay Warm NH is a public/private partnership focused on expanding weatherization and heating assistance programs. The NH Office of Energy and Planning, NH Department of Health and Human Services and NH Charitable Foundation are coordinating this effort with the help of dozens of nonprofit organizations and private businesses. Learn more at www.StayWarmNH.org.



STAY WARM

Stay Warm • Stay Safe • Stay Connected

STAY WARM

- Reduce your heating costs and prepare your home for winter using the checklist on the inside of this flyer. For additional tips, visit www.StayWarmNH.org.
- If you have questions about fuel or weatherization assistance, call 2-1-1.
- If you find yourself in real need, contact your city or town officials.

STAY SAFE

- Some communities have established warming centers. Call 2-1-1 to locate one near you.
- If you use an electric heater, be sure that it is UL rated. If you are using an extension cord, the cord should also be UL rated.
- Make sure your home has working carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms.

STAY CONNECTED

- Look out for your friends and neighbors. Check in on people who may need help this winter.
- Consider making a donation. Visit www.StayWarmNH.org to contribute much-needed dollars to local heating assistance programs.

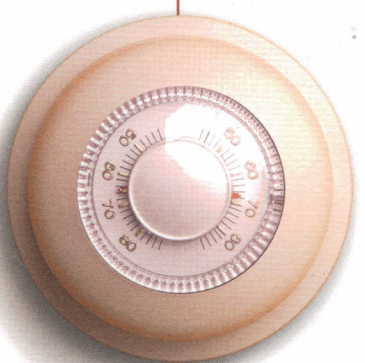
For more information and assistance:

- Visit www.StayWarmNH.org
- Call 2-1-1



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www.StayWarmNH.org



**New Hampshire
Winters May Be Cold,
But Our Homes
Don't Have to Be.**

Many New Hampshire families are struggling to afford winter heating costs. Combined with higher food and gas prices, staying warm through this winter could be very difficult. With a little planning and these tips from Stay Warm NH, you and your family can stay warm, safe, and connected this winter.

www.StayWarmNH.org



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