

## Is there any way I can save money on heating this winter?

It doesn't come as any surprise that heating accounts for the largest utility expense in a typical American household. Unfortunately, this expense is set to climb even higher as fuel prices continue to rise. However, there are many things you can do, at little to no cost to you, to make your home more energy efficient and drastically cut down on your heating bill. Such simple things as moving furniture away from radiators can help you to save money on your heating costs this winter.



## Is there anything I can do right now to prepare for the heating season?

While the weather is still warm, you can perform a self-inspection on your house to check for air leaks. Air leaks are a major source of heat loss and will cause you to burn more fuel in the winter. The majority of these air leaks will probably be around doors, window frames, where plumbing cuts through your ceiling or walls, and where your house and foundation meet. Once you have identified the air leaks in these areas, use weatherstrip or caulk to seal them. Remember that many caulks will not cure in the cold weather, so it is best to caulk in the warmer weather.

## What else can I do?

Here is a list of other easy things you can do to save on your heating expenses:

- ✚ Move furniture and draperies away from heating units.
- ✚ Place a sheet of aluminum foil between the radiator and the wall to reflect heat back into the room.
- ✚ Clean/vacuum radiator surfaces. Dust can block heat flow.
- ✚ Allow sunlight to warm your home during the daytime by opening the curtains and shades on the windows located on the south and west side of your home.
- ✚ Close off unused rooms, closet doors, and doors to unheated areas.
- ✚ Keep your fireplace damper closed. Keeping the damper open allows warm air to escape by the chimney.
- ✚ Clean or replace furnace filters monthly to keep your furnace working efficiently.
- ✚ Turn the thermostat down when you leave the house or go to bed. You can also invest in a programmable thermostat that will automatically lower the temperature when you leave the house and warm it when you return.

- ✚ Wear layers of clothing instead of turning up the thermostat. Air that is trapped between the layers of clothing will keep you warmer.
- ✚ Make sure the windows are closed tightly near your thermostat. This way your furnace will not continue to work when the house is already heated.
- ✚ Draw the curtains and shades at night to keep out cold air.
- ✚ Warm air can escape through electrical outlets. To prevent this, place foam gaskets behind electrical outlet covers and use plastic outlet plugs on outside walls to prevent cold air from entering the house.

## Where can I get more information on ways to heat my home more efficiently?

To find more information:

- **CL&P Home Energy Solutions (formerly WRAP Program)** Assists eligible low-income customers to lower electric use, reduce heat loss, conserve hot water, and switch to energy efficient lighting.  
**1-800-388-9727**  
<https://clm.nu.com/clmtrs2/OnlineServices/PastParticipation.aspx?program=HES&company=CLP>

[www.cl-p.com](http://www.cl-p.com)

[www.yankeegas.com](http://www.yankeegas.com)

[www.CTSavesEnergy.org](http://www.CTSavesEnergy.org)

**Are there any energy assistance programs that can help me if I am having trouble paying my utility bills?**

Here are some programs and phone numbers that may be of assistance to you:

- **Energy Assistance Call:**  
**TVCCA 1-860-425-6681**
- **Local Fuel Banks in your area –**  
**Call: Infoline @ 211**  
(cell phone: 1-800-203-1234)
- **Operation Fuel Agencies –**  
**Call: Infoline @ 211**  
(cell phone: 1-800-203-1234)
- **CL&P Matching Payment Program-**  
Provides year-round electric service and possible forgiveness of back balances to low-income electric heating customers who have past due balances. **1-800-286-5844**
- **Yankee Gas Matching Payment Program – 1-800-438-2278**
- **CL&P NUSTART-** Assists eligible low-income customers maintain year-round electric service. Customers can also reduce and eliminate their past due balances if they pay an agreed upon, budgeted amount on time, each month. **1-800-286-5844**

If you are unable to arrange payments on your bill, you can call:

Department of Public Utility Control  
1-800-382-4586

Energy Assistance Hot Line  
1-800-842-1132

# WAYS TO SAVE ON YOUR HEATING COSTS

A brochure providing easy and inexpensive ways to heat your home more efficiently and cut down on your utilities bill.



*A special thank you to  
David Billing, Youth Volunteer at  
United Way of Southeastern CT  
for creating this brochure for our community  
with information from CL&P and Yankee Gas*