

The average family spends \$1,900 a year on energy bills, much of which goes to heating and cooling. With winter approaching, the government's ENERGY STAR program offers tips and advice to help Americans reduce energy use and save money while staying warm and comfortable in their homes. More importantly, saving energy also reduces the risks associated with global climate change.

Keep the H.E.A.T. inside this winter with ENERGY STAR. For more information on improving your home's overall heating and cooling efficiency, visit www.energystar.gov/home.

HOME SEALING.

Hidden air leaks in your home can lead to higher energy bills by allowing heat to escape and causing your system to work harder to keep you comfortable. Sealing air leaks and adding insulation will keep warm air inside where it belongs and help your equipment perform more efficiently. For more information, get EPA's "Guide to Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling" and "A DIY Guide to ENERGY STAR Home Sealing" at www.energystar.gov.

EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE.

Dirt and neglect are the number one causes of heating and cooling system failure. Schedule a fall check-up of your heating system with a licensed contractor. Also, clean or change your system's air filter once a month to keep your system running efficiently.

ASK FOR ENERGY STAR.

You'll find the ENERGY STAR on more than 50 types of products from heating and cooling equipment, appliances, electronics, and lighting to windows and new homes. Buying products with the ENERGY STAR mark helps you save money, save energy and protect the environment.

THERMOSTAT USE.

Use a programmable thermostat to regulate your home's temperature. That way, you can use less energy when you're not at home. If used properly, a programmable thermostat can save up to \$150 every year in energy costs.





