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IDAHO FALLS
POWER

Tips to Save Energy in Winter Months

The days are short, the nights are long, and temperatures are cold and freezing. Consider implementing these tips to make your home more energy efficient, save money, and help keep you comfortable during those long, cold winter months.



Take advantage of heat from the sun.

Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home. Close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.



Adjust the temperature and consider upgrading your thermostat.

When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees. Consider adding extra blankets and wearing warmer clothes while in the house. A smart or programmable thermostat makes it easy to maintain lower temperatures and can accurately and efficiently optimize indoor temperatures and regulate energy usage.



Use fans to circulate warm air in your home.

Switch your fan to rotate clockwise on low speed to help move warm air trapped near the ceiling back down and circulate it around the room. This is especially helpful in rooms with vaulted ceilings. Recirculating warm air will help your heating unit run less often, meaning you could save roughly 15% on your heating costs.



Seal leaks and cover drafty windows and doors.

Find and seal the air leaks around utility cuts for pipes, gaps around chimneys, recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets. Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows. Use heavy-duty, clear plastic sheets on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.



Check your insulation.

Poorly insulated homes are harder to cool in the summer and heat in the winter.



Maintain your heating systems.

Schedule service for your heating system.

For furnaces and heat pumps, check and replace filters as recommended to allow more air flow and to optimize energy usage. Clean radiators, ductwork, and vents to keep them free from dirt and dust so they operate more efficiently.



Lower your water-heating costs.

Adjust the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120 degrees). Repair leaky faucets, wash clothes in cold water, insulate pipes, and consider installing showerhead flow restrictors. You will use about half the water for showers, and you'll hardly notice a change in water pressure.



Close Doors and Vents in Vacant or Unused Rooms.

Don't waste valuable energy heating an empty or uninhabited space! If there's a room in your home that people rarely enter, consider closing the vents in the room and shut the door. This will help prevent paying to heat an unoccupied space.



Other energy saving tips:

- Keep lights off as much as possible.
- Don't keep ventilation fans running once they've done their job. These fans can vent out valuable heated air.
- Replace old, incandescent light bulbs with new, low energy LED bulbs.
- Turn off and unplug unused appliances or electronics.
- Ensure air vents are not blocked by furniture or curtains.
- Close fireplace flues when not in use.
- Run full loads in dishwashers and washing machines.
- Don't build a fire when the furnace is on.
- Insulate your pipes.
- Place rugs on hard floors, giving you an extra layer of insulation from cold floors.
- After using the oven, leave the door ajar. Don't let that heat go to waste!

For information on Idaho Falls Power energy efficiency programs, visit www.ifpower.org or call 208-612-8430.

Frequently Called Numbers

New connects, disconnects, or questions about my bill: 208-612-8280

Payment extensions or assistance: 208-612-8285

Power outages, energy efficiency programs and rebates: 208-612-8430

Fiber network availability: 208-612-8725

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