



“Tips on How to Reduce Your Energy Expenses”

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Here are several ways you can reduce your energy expenses:
Adjust the thermostat – During nighttime, when everyone is asleep in their warm beds, have the temperature lower by up to 10 degrees. There is no reason to heat all those rooms when everyone is sleeping. You will realize a significant savings during the colder periods when the furnace is running constantly to keep up. At night, you can give it a rest and save money. You can also turn the heat down a few degrees if you will be out of the house for a few hours.

Optimize your fireplace – Many fireplaces actually lose more heat than they generate. When there is no fire going, they act like a big hole in the house: all the heat swoops up the chimney and into the sky. Even when a fire burns, it can be inefficient. Fireplaces need to be well insulated to avoid this problem. You can hire a professional to come and do an evaluation. With the newer technology available in fireplaces, you can realize a tremendous savings in this area if you have an older fireplace.

Properly insulate the walls and ceilings – You can easily check the attic to see if you have adequate insulation there, but it would be better to call a professional and have them do an energy audit of your entire home. They will use an infrared sensor to identify any cold spots where there are problems with heat loss. It is then a simple matter to get bids to fix these problem areas. All of the heat ducts should be analyzed because they are notorious trouble spots for leaks. These ducts should be properly insulated so that the heat exits them at the vents instead of at the cracks. Insulating the attic will lead to a dramatic savings.

Wrap your water heater – If your water heater is in an unfinished space, you should wrap it with an insulated blanket. You can also wrap the hot



water pipes. Visit your local home improvement store for materials.

Inspect the windows for deterioration – New windows can save a tremendous amount of money because the potential for heat loss through malfunctioning or outdated windows is so great. Double-paned windows will reduce your heating bill significantly.

Defrost freezers when the ice grows over ¼-inch thick – This will save money since the freezer will operate more efficiently.

Optimize lighting – Use energy-efficient, low-wattage lighting wherever possible.