



“Ways to Save on Utility Expenses”

André Larabie

Reducing your home heating expenses should be a short-term goal that will add money to your bank account. I will offer some general tips for saving money on home heating. After you develop your budget and you record a year of actual expense data on heating your home, you can decide which of these tips will allow you to reduce those expenses so you can apply the savings toward meeting your long-term goal of financial freedom.

Heavy and light drapes - If you live in a geographic region where there are four seasons, you can have two sets of drapes for your windows, a heavy set for the summer when you want to keep the heat (UV rays) out, and a light set for the winter when you want to let the heat in. In winter, when the sun is shining, open the drapes entirely to let in the UV rays.

Close the doors – In unoccupied rooms, keep the doors closed and the heating vents shut. This way, the heat will remain confined to the occupied areas of the home.

Heat less water – Take shorter showers in the morning. Although it feels good to take long hot ones, showers are primarily for cleaning your body. Also, wash clothing in cold water whenever possible. You can also turn down the overall water temperature on the water heater. Install energy-saver shower heads, and wash only full loads in the dishwasher.

Maintain your heating system – Each year before turning on your furnace, you should have it professionally inspected. At a minimum, you will want to change the air filter every month or so during winter. A dusty filter will restrict the airflow, which will increase your heating expense. If



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your furnace is too old, replace it because the technology has advanced significantly in the last few years, and newer furnaces are much more cost effective than older ones.