

## 5 minute Tasks..

Installing rubber gaskets behind outlets and switch plates on exterior walls can help reduce drafts and keep warm air inside.

### Other Tips to Save

- Warm air rises, so use registers to direct warm air flow across floors.
- Close vents and doors in unused rooms and close dampers on unused fireplaces.
- Set the water heater temperature at 120 degrees. This will reduce water heating bills without sacrificing comfort.
- Install water-flow restrictors in showerheads and faucets to save on hot water. Take showers instead of baths. Showers use less water.
- Run washing machines and clothes dryers with a full load. Wash clothes in cold or warm water instead of hot.
- Use passive solar energy by opening drapes and blinds during the day and close them at night to retain heat.
- Insulate pipes so they won't freeze.
- Add weather-stripping tapes that adhere directly to door and window frames for a tight seal. Add a door sweep for more insulation.
- Wear layers of clothing or insulated clothing indoors.
- Put extra blankets or down comforters on beds.

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## Weatherizing Your Home Tips & Guide

*Doing these simple things can and does save money, but more importantly.....it helps save energy. It is our small way of making a difference in our world.*



Contact us or visit our website for more information at  
[www.ziagas.com](http://www.ziagas.com)



**ZIA NATURAL GAS COMPANY**



## Winterizing Checklist

For You to Cut Out and Use as Your Guide

- Check the attic, walls and basement for adequate insulation.
- Feel around electrical outlets and switch plates for cold air, add insulation where necessary.
- Look around doors and windows for gaps and potential places where warm air can escape.
- Caulk or apply weather stripping around problem draft areas.
- Consider replacing windows with energy efficient double paned windows.
- Clean gutters and down spouts in mid-fall and double check them before winter.
- Have a contractor look for damaged roof shingles and loose gutters.
- Replace the filter in your furnace.
- Have a heating and cooling expert look at your furnace if you are unsure of its efficiency.
- Have chimneys and woodstoves cleaned early in the season.
- Test the flue for each fireplace for a tight seal when closed.
- Close any vents in your home that may have been opened for the warm weather.
- Disconnect hoses from outside faucets and turn off the water.
- Buy a snow shovel and other winter supplies before the messy weather hits.

## Winterizing Your Home

Winterize your home and save money. Maintaining furnace efficiency and sealing household air leaks are a top priority.

### Keep your furnace efficient.

- Change or clean your furnace filter monthly for cleaner air and energy efficiency.
  - Have a professional clean and tune up your furnace every year.
  - Turn your thermostat down when you are sleeping or when you are not at home. For every certain period you set back your thermostat 1 degree, you'll save 1 percent on energy costs during that time. Use a clock or a programmable thermostat to help you save the most!
  - Vacuum register grills to increase air flow.
  - Don't block registers with furniture or drapes.
  - Adjust the register in each room to control the amount of heat it gets.
- The furnace flame should be an even blue, with only small amounts of orange and yellow. If it is mostly orange or yellow, have the furnace professionally checked.

It could mean furnace is not getting enough oxygen, and could be emitting potentially dangerous gases.

- Also consider replacing older furnaces and water heaters with new ones that use fuel more efficiently. High efficiency units cost more to buy, but they save money over the long run.

### Seal Air Leaks

Caulking and weather stripping are the most cost effective measures for winterizing your home and they usually pay for themselves within one year. The materials are inexpensive and easy to use, so you can tackle these projects yourself.

### Fireplaces

When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed. It is designed specifically for smoke to escape, so until you close it warm air escapes 24 hours a day!

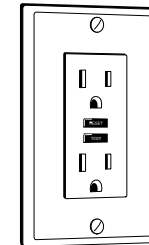
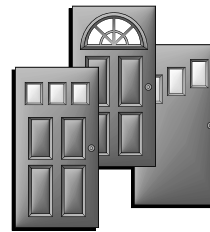
### Caulking

- Caulk where different building material meet on the interior or exterior of your home.
- Caulk the interior of your home to prevent drafts and to prevent moist air from entering the walls.
- Caulk the exterior to prevent rain, moisture, bugs and rodents from entering and damaging your home.

Always seal air leaks before adding insulation

### Weather Stripping

- Use weather stripping on parts that move, like doors or windows, to reduce drafts.
- Weather stripping provides an air tight seal without binding.
- Install a door sweep or a door bottom if you feel drafts in entry ways.



### A Simple Air Test For Your Home...

On a windy day, hold a lit incense stick next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches, and other locations where there may possibly be an air path to the outside. If the smoke stream travels horizontally you have located an air stream that may need caulking, sealing or weather stripping.