

Better in a Sweater

Home Tune Up Tips



Has winter's chill set in? Longing for warm toes and lower energy bills?

We're working on keeping the heat in at school, and we thought parents and staff at home might benefit from some of the things we've learned.

This checklist will help you to tune up your house for winter. Start at the top for the simplest and easiest steps; move down the list for ideas that require a bit more effort.

Redecorate – investigate your home to make sure heating vents are unblocked and there is good circulation around any radiators.

Cozy Closed Blinds – close your blinds or curtains, especially at night. You can save 5% to 15% of your energy bills in winter. Likewise keeping doors closed can isolate drafty rooms and keep the heat in the core of the house.

Clear the Air – clean or replace your furnace filter every 3 to 6 months to allow for better air flow and reduce damage to the furnace fan and heating coils. In addition to cleaner air, your furnace will run more efficiently and save you money.

Mind the Gap – drafts from windows and doors are a major source of heat loss in winter.

For windows and doors that open, install weatherstripping where the two surfaces meet. Use bumpers under drafty interior doors and caulk windows where the sash meets the frame and where the trim meets the wall.

Wrap it Up – insulate your water heater with a hot water heater blanket for about \$25 and bask in the energy savings. Insulate hot water pipes, especially those that run through unheated basements or crawlspaces for even greater savings.

Get Thermostat Savvy – lower your programmable thermostat by just 2 degrees at night and save 5% on your energy bill. Setback the temperature while you're away during the day and save even more. If you don't have one yet, they are relatively inexpensive and, if programmed, will pay for themselves in 2-3 year.