

# Winter Heating Tips to Keep Bills Lower



Keep your thermostat at 68 degrees or lower this winter. You save about 3 percent on your heating costs for each degree you lower your thermostat.



If you have ceiling fans, run them at a low speed in a clockwise direction. This produces a gentle updraft, which forces warm air near the ceiling down.



Smart and programmable thermostats can help reduce heating costs by allowing better control of the settings. Use these thermostats to automatically adjust the temperature of your home according to your family's schedule – lowering the temperature when you're sleeping or away and raising the temperature only when needed.



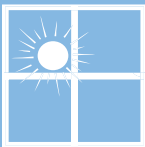
Be sure the damper is closed when you're not using the fireplace. Glass doors for fireplaces save energy and heat by keeping cold air from coming down the flue and preventing warm air from being sucked out of the house.



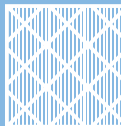
Set the temperature of your hot water heater to 120 degrees for safety and energy savings. Lowering the setting of your water heater thermostat can save in energy costs and reduce the potential for scalding.



Seal air leaks to prevent heat from your home escaping or cold air coming in. Look for drafty areas and seal with caulk or weatherstripping that can save you up to 10% on your energy bill.



On sunny days, open blinds or drapes on the sunny side of your house to let heat in from the sun. Be sure to close them again at night to keep heat from escaping.



Replace your furnace filter every month. Air filters that are clogged with dust work twice as hard to move air through your home which requires more energy use. You'll also improve your indoor air quality.



Keep drapes and furniture from blocking air vents. Only heat the rooms you need to heat by closing vents and doors to unused rooms.



For tips, tools and incentives, visit **[AmerenIllinoisSavings.com](http://AmerenIllinoisSavings.com)**.