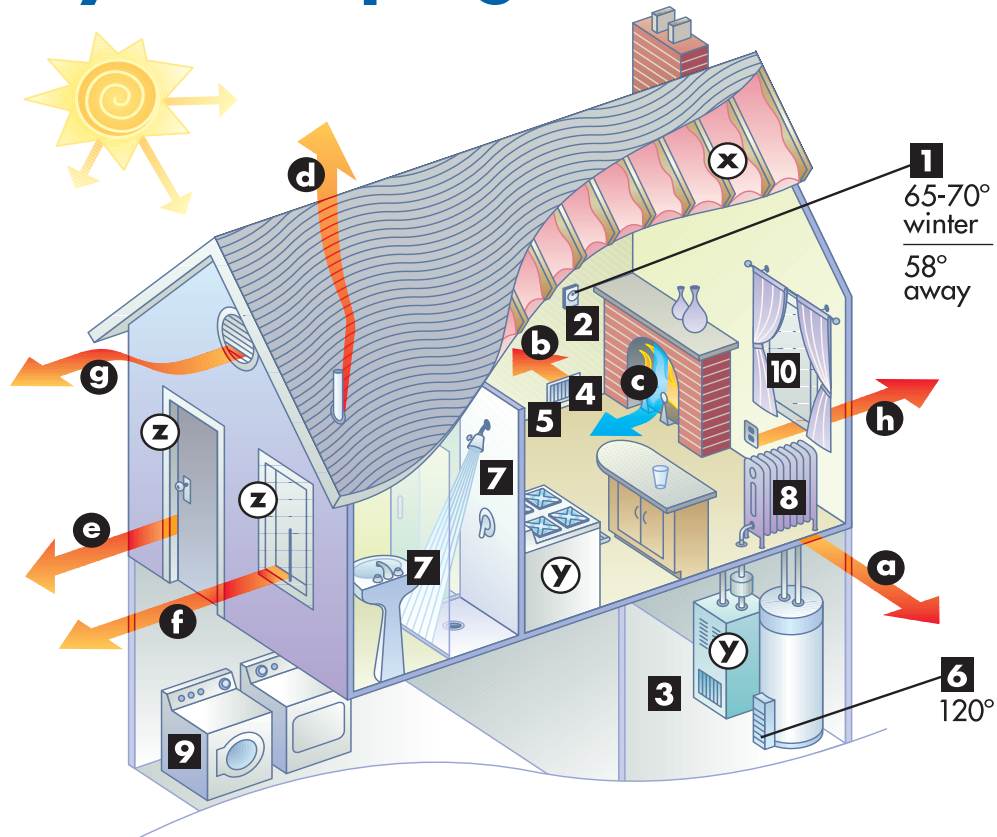


# Your home strategy for using energy wisely & keeping fuel bills down!



## Watch for escape routes!

Sealing air leaks could cut 10 percent from an average household's monthly energy bill. Common places where heat escapes are:

- a floors, walls, ceilings
- b ducts
- c fireplace
- d plumbing penetrations
- e doors
- f windows
- g fans and vents
- h electrical outlets

## Action you can take today

- 1 Set thermostats between 65 and 70 degrees during the winter, and 58 degrees when away from the house for more than a few hours. Bear in mind that warmer temperatures are recommended for homes with ill or elderly people, or infants.
- 2 Install a programmable setback thermostat that will automatically turn down the heat when you're sleeping or at work. Turning down your thermostat 7 to 12 degrees, for eight hours a day, can
- 3 save up to 10 percent on your annual heating bills.
- 3 Change or clean furnace filters once a month during the heating season. Use receipt of your natural gas bill as a reminder.
- 4 Warm air rises, so use registers to direct warm airflow across the floor.
- 5 Close vents and doors in unused rooms and close dampers on unused fireplaces.
- 6 Set water heater temperatures at 120 degrees. This will allow a family to cut water heating bills without sacrificing comfort.
- 7 Install water-flow restrictors in shower-heads and faucets.
- 8 Place a sheet of aluminum foil between the radiator and the wall to reflect heat back into the room.
- 9 Run washing machines and clothes dryers with a full load.
- 10 On sunny days, open draperies and blinds to let

the sun's warmth in. Close them at night to insulate against cold air outside.

## Think long-term improvement

- x Check to see if attic and basement have the recommended levels of insulation.
- y Check the heating system and replace old, outdated appliances with high-efficiency natural gas models. When buying new appliances, compare energy efficiency ratings and annual operating costs.
- z Install storm or thermal windows and doors or double-paned glass. A less expensive alternative is plastic sheeting, which can be temporarily fastened over doors and windows to prevent drafts and retain heat.

## Check out our Budget Plan - another wise move!

Spread your bill payments evenly over the year with our Budget Plan. We can also

automatically deduct your bill from your checking account each month through our Direct Payment program. For more information, call 863-4511, ext. 250.

## Worried about fuel costs?

If you think you might have trouble paying your heating bills this winter, call Vermont Gas at 863-4511 for information on fuel assistance programs

## Questions about energy efficiency?

For more information about energy audits, rebates and energy efficiency project financing, call 863-4511, ext 321.



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