



## Keep Warm This Winter with ENERGY STAR®

Don't get stung by high home energy bills this winter. Improve your home's comfort while doing the right thing for the environment. Follow these simple recommendations:

- ✓ **Seal it Up** – Sealing your home “envelope” – the outer walls, ceiling, windows and floors--helps increase the energy efficiency of your home. Add insulation and seal air leaks to cut your energy costs by 10 percent. Always look for the ENERGY STAR when choosing new windows.
- ✓ **Tighten Your Ducts** – If you have a forced air furnace or heat pump, then a duct system is responsible for circulating warm air throughout your home. Leaky ducts waste energy and can contribute to poor indoor air quality. Sealing your ducts can save up to \$140 annually on energy bills and increase your system's ability to consistently heat every room in your home.
- ✓ **Beware of Oversizing** – With heating and cooling equipment, bigger isn't always better. If you're replacing old equipment, make sure your new equipment is properly sized to best accommodate your home. Checking for correct sizing and proper airflow will ensure that your equipment works efficiently, saves you money and helps protect our environment.
- ✓ **Replace old heating equipment with ENERGY STAR** – By choosing the following ENERGY STAR qualified products, you can save energy and money while increasing the comfort of your home:
  - ❖ **Boilers** – An ENERGY STAR labeled boiler uses technologies such as electric ignition and sealed combustion to deliver energy savings.
  - ❖ **Programmable Thermostats** – Depending on how much you use your heating system, you can save about \$100 every year on your energy bills by better regulating your home's temperature using four programmable settings when you're home or away.
  - ❖ **Air-Source and Geothermal Heat Pumps** – Air-source heat pumps use the difference between indoor and outdoor air temperatures to heat and cool inside air and are about 20% more efficient than standard models. Geothermal heat pumps use the ground instead of outside air to provide heating, air conditioning, and hot water and are 30% more efficient than comparable equipment.
  - ❖ **Furnaces** – One in four furnaces in US homes is more than 20 years old. Old furnaces cost more to operate. ENERGY STAR qualified models are 15% more efficient than standard models.
- ✓ **Get the Best Professional** – Before embarking on a heating and cooling overhaul, find an experienced, licensed contractor. Visit [www.natex.org](http://www.natex.org) to find a contractor whose technicians are certified by NATE (North American Technician Excellence), the leading industry-supported testing and certification program.
- ✓ **Don't Get Burned** – It's easy to ensure that your home is at its highest comfort level while cutting costs and helping to protect the environment. Routine maintenance, like changing or washing your air filters, will ensure peak performance and maximum energy savings. In addition to the simple things you can do yourself, have your HVAC equipment professionally maintained to keep it operating safely and protect your investment.

[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

**ENERGY STAR Hotline: 1-888-STAR-YES**