Save Energy and The Environment

Use Energy Efficiently, Prevent Air Pollution

Improve your home's comfort, and save energy and money while doing the right thing for the environment.

Know the facts.

The average family spends $1,400 a year on energy bills—nearly half on heating and cooling. Energy-efficient heating and cooling equipment sized and installed correctly with properly sealed ducts can save homeowners as much as 20% on annual energy costs.

Keep it clean.

A dirty air filter can increase energy costs and lead to early equipment failure. Clean or change the air filter monthly. Some filters only need to be changed every 3 months. Dirt and neglect are the leading causes of system failure.

Also, have equipment checked seasonally to make sure it is operating efficiently and safely, and identify problems early.

Bundle up your home.

Hidden gaps and cracks can add up to as much airflow as an open window. The more heat that escapes, the more cold air enters, causing the system to work harder and use more energy. Home sealing can save up to 10% in energy costs.

Start by sealing air leaks and adding insulation—pay special attention to the attic and basement, where the biggest gaps and cracks are often found. If you are replacing windows, choose ENERGY STAR*-qualified ones.

Tighten your ducts.

If you have a forced air furnace or heat pump, a duct system circulates warm air throughout the home. Leaky ducts can reduce the system's overall efficiency by 20%. Sealing ducts can save up to $140 annually on energy bills and helps consistently heat every room.

Buy the right equipment.

Make sure new equipment is properly sized for your home. An oversized system costs more to buy and operate, and will cycle on and off too frequently, reducing comfort and leading to early system failures and repair costs.

Correct size and proper airflow ensures that the system works efficiently, saves you money, and helps protect the environment.

Put your home to the test.

Doing a home improvement project? Online tools help evaluate your home's energy performance and offer solutions to increase comfort and energy efficiency. Visit www.energystar.gov and have utility bills handy for savings calculations.

Consult a professional.

Find an experienced, licensed contractor before starting on any heating and cooling overhaul. Visit www.natex.org to find a contractor whose technicians are certified by NATE (North American Technician Excellence). The contractor should properly size equipment, test airflow, and perform a quality installation.

Cash in on special offers.

Concerned about the cost of new heating equipment? Check with your utility company or visit the rebate finder at www.energystar.gov to see if any special deals on high-efficiency heating equipment.

Manufacturer rebates are usually offered in fall and early spring. Ask for ENERGY STAR-qualified equipment—it might cost more up front, but it will offer you greater savings and comfort for years to come.

Be smart when you shop.

If your heating equipment has been poorly maintained and is 15 years or older, it's probably time for a more efficient replacement. Ask for an ENERGY STAR when buying the following equipment:

- Furnaces: 15% more efficient than standard models.
- Heat Pumps: qualified geothermal heat pump—30% more efficient with a $200 annual savings; qualified electric heat pump—20% more efficient and about $130 annual savings.
- Boilers: features electric ignition and new combustion technologies to be 7% more energy efficient.
- Programmable Thermostats: save about $100 annually.

*ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy that is designed to help people save money and protect the environment through energy-efficient products and practices.

Source: WPO, US Environmental Protection Agency

For more information or to talk with a Counselor, please call your EAP: **1.800.492.4357**

Online Services: www.mhneteap.com

Callers with TTY equipment, please call: **1.800.338.2039**

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