

## Home Energy Audit Part 4

### HEATING AND COOLING

Heating and cooling your home uses more energy and costs more money than any other system in your home -- typically making up about 54% of your utility bill.

No matter what kind of heating and cooling system you have in your house, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. But remember, an energy-efficient furnace alone will not have as great an impact on your energy bills as using the **whole-house approach**. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing, and thermostat settings, you can cut your energy use for heating and cooling -- and reduce environmental emissions -- from 20%-50%.

### HEATING AND COOLING TIPS

- Set your programmable thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and as high as is comfortable in the summer, and -- depending on the season -- raise or lower the set-point when you're sleeping or away from home.
- Clean or replace filters on furnaces and air conditioners once a month or as recommended.
- Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- Eliminate trapped air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season; if unsure about how to perform this task, contact a professional.
- Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
- Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing; when replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.
- During winter, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.
- During summer, keep the window coverings closed during the day to block the sun's heat.

### Audit Questions:

Answer "Yes, No, or Does Not Apply" to each of the questions. With each question make a note on how it could affect, positively or negatively your home's energy usage.

**1. Are furnace air filters cleaned and changed once a month or year depending on the type of filter you use?**

**2. Does your home have a programmable thermostat?**

**3. In the winter is your thermostat...**

**Set at 68F or lower when you are home?**

**Set at 60F or lower overnight?**

**Set at 60F or lower when you're away or on vacation?**

- 4. In the summer, is your thermostat set at 73F or higher when you are home?**
- 5. Is your ceiling/ attic insulated? Can you find out how thick the insulation is?**
- 6. If you have a fireplace, do you keep the flue closed when not in use?**
- 7. Are area in front of baseboard heaters and water heaters clear of furnishings, curtains, or other objects that block air flow?**
- 8. Are the exterior of your walls of your home insulated?**
- 9. If your basement is heated, are the basement walls insulated?**
- 10. Additional comments or items to make note of...**