



## HOW TO SAVE ENERGY HEATING YOUR HOME

About 75 cents of every home energy dollar goes for heating your house. There are several low- and no-cost strategies you can employ to keep heating costs under control. Here's how to get started saving energy.

### All heating systems

- Never use an un-vented (without an exhaust) combustion heater in your home.
- If you suspect fuel or exhaust leakage with any combustion heating system, contact your utility at once.
- A steady thermostat setting is the most energy-efficient. Appoint one person to adjust the furnace or heater thermostat.
- Select a comfortable and energy-saving temperature — 68 degrees is considered an optimum winter thermostat setting. If you feel cold at this setting your home is probably in need of air-tightening and insulation — call your utility, HRDC or the Extension Service for assistance.
- Set the thermostat back four to six degrees when 68 degrees is not necessary (6-8 hours during the night-time and during the day when the family is at work and school). For about \$75 an automatic clock thermostat can replace the conventional thermostat to regulate the time and heating demand of the household.
- Vacuum around furnace air intakes, vent registers, baseboard heater and radiators. Even a little dust can alter air flow to and from the heating system.

### Forced-air furnaces

- Furnace filters should be replaced or cleaned once a month during the heating season.
- Do not block off furnace supply and return vents. For maximum efficiency furnaces need a balanced air supply. Also, draperies and furniture blocking vents can create a fire hazard.
- If furnace has outside combustion air intake check to assure that it is not blocked off.

- Check exhaust vent to make sure it has no obstructions — birds, collapsed pipe, etc..
- Have furnace checked at least every three years by a qualified serviceman.
- If heating and return ductwork run through an unheated area (crawl space or attic) insulate the ductwork with R-11 fiberglass.
- Check your heating ducts for cracks and other openings. Seal with duct mastic or contact your utility or HRDC for assistance.
- For furnace blower motors that require lubrication, oil annually. Also, clean the blower blades so that air can move more easily.

### Electric baseboards and hot water radiators

- Keep clean!
- For proper air circulation and heating keep furniture and draperies away from the baseboards and radiators.
- For hot water heating systems insulate pipes running through unheated spaces.
- Place a sheet of aluminum foil or other non-flammable reflective material behind the radiator; it will reflect heat back into the room.
- To improve the efficiency of a hot-water heating system, bleed the air from your radiators once or twice a year. Turn the air valve or the key on each radiator until water comes out. Hold a bucket under the valve and remember that the water is hot. Shut the valve tightly when the water stops spurting.

### For more information.

For additional heating system maintenance and energy tips contact your power company, a reputable heating contractor in your area or the MSU Extension office in your county.