



Rhode Island's Energy Conservation Technicians Can Help Reduce Home Heating Bills

*Energy Conservation Technicians Can Show
Rhode Island Consumers Things They Can Do Now
To Prepare for Winter.*

Your oil dealers' Energy Conservation Technicians, affiliated with the Oil Heat Institute of Rhode Island, can show consumers things they can do right now—some for as little as \$50 and even no cost—to reduce home heating bills this winter.

Energy conservation is the best way to lower costs. Your neighborhood home heating oil dealer's trained Energy Conservation Technicians work every day to help consumers keep their heating and cooling systems not just running, but running at peak efficiency to help control costs. There are a number of good investments that consumers can make to reduce the amount of energy they use, and a neighborhood Energy Conservation Technician can help people make the most cost-effective improvements.

Among the recommendations:

- **An annual energy conservation check-up for home heating systems. Keeping the system running cleanly and efficiently can cut fuel consumption by 5 percent or more.**
- **Programmable thermostats. For very little money, a programmable thermostat cuts fuel usage by as much as 5 percent and pays for itself almost immediately. Make sure to have a licensed professional install the thermostat so that it works properly and does what you need it do.**



- **Save more with domestic hot water efficiencies.**
Indirect water heaters and instant-on hot water systems can save bundles of money and provide endless hot water for greater comfort.
- **Save energy with outdoor reset controls.**
Why have your boiler continually running as if it were 20 below outside? The automatic controls sense higher outdoor temperatures so your boiler can run more efficiently and use less fuel.
- **Weatherize. Weatherize. Weatherize.**
Improving insulation, caulking drafts, replacing old windows, insulating some more – you’ll be amazed at how aggressive weatherization can reduce your home heating costs.
- **Upgrade an outmoded heating system.** New Oilheat systems can achieve efficiencies as high as 95 percent and can cut fuel usage by nearly 40 percent.
- **Save 15 percent with a flame retention oil burner.**
If you have an older system – 20 years old or so – adding a flame retention oil burner to your existing boiler could increase the system’s efficiency by as much as 15 percent. Many customers have already done this but R.W. Beckett estimates that there are 3.3 million of these older burners still in the market.



CAN'T AFFORD TO UPGRADE?

Here are Some Low-Cost and No-Cost Tips

Unused Rooms in the House—If you have rooms that are rarely used or you have children away at college, turn the heat off in those rooms and close the door. If there is no thermostat in the room, simply close the air vents or the flaps on the baseboard. This will save a good amount of heat. If the flap is missing, you can cover the heating coil with cardboard. The heat will not cause a problem with the cardboard.

Additional Weatherization Tips—Windows should be securely locked. Close all storm windows if you have them. Windows with a draft can be covered with plastic, available at your local hardware store. Also check all cellar windows, repairing or blocking any broken windows. Seal any drafts around doorways. Close curtains and shades at night.

Chimneys—Check the damper to be sure it's closed. Open dampers will draw heat out of your home.

Obstructions—Check to be certain that your heat is not obstructed by any furniture, draperies or other objects.

Cellar Windows—Place raked leaves into bags, then place them in front of cellar windows to create a natural insulation from the cold winter air.



STEAM HEATING SYSTEMS

Check radiator air vents for continuous hissing noises which indicate that the vent needs replacement. This wastes heat, which in turn, wastes money. Check your radiator valves and piping for leaks. Flush dirty water from your steam boiler. It is more difficult to heat water containing dirt and scale than it is to heat clean water.

Take a thin piece of plywood and cover with aluminum foil. Slide it behind the radiator with the foil facing the room. This will reflect more heat into the room.

HOT WATER HEATING SYSTEMS

Check your baseboard heat for dust and lint on the heating coils. Remove covers, brush off coils and vacuum thoroughly. Make sure rugs or any objects are not blocking the bottom or top of the baseboard. Air passes through the bottom of the baseboard, forcing the warm air out of the top of the baseboard. If the flap on your baseboard is closed, it will NOT heat the room. When carpets are installed, they may be too close to the underside of the baseboard, blocking proper air flow.

Wrap cardboard with aluminum foil and slide behind the convector (baseboard) unit, especially if the baseboard is along an outside wall. This will reflect more heat into the room.



WARM AIR SYSTEMS

Keep air filters clean. Check duct work for warm air escaping into the basement instead of going into the rooms of the home. You can lose up to 60% of your heated air before it reaches the register. Duct tape will solve this problem and can be purchased at any hardware store. Heating registers and returns should be free from any obstructions.

The Energy Conservation technicians at your oil company can make specific recommendations on how you can cut your home heating oil bills and take advantage of tax programs aimed at encouraging energy conservation. These are specific things people can do right now to cut their costs well before the upcoming heating season.