

Are You Ready For Winter?

Insulating your home makes more sense today than ever before. Not many years ago, when energy was relatively cheap and plentiful, weatherization was not as cost-effective as it is today.

Even a well-insulated home can lose as much as 30 percent of its heat through small cracks around doors and window jambs, thresholds and frames. Weatherstripping and caulking will prevent this waste of your insulation dollars and make your home more comfortable.

When insulating attics, be sure to also insulate pipes and heating ducts in unheated basements or in crawl spaces. If heat ducts are not insulated, they can waste much more heat than they deliver.

Glass is an ineffective insulator. Single-pane windows lose a lot of heat. Storm windows work by providing a “dead air” space—usually 1 to 4 inches—between the prime window and storm window. This dead air works like insulation, slowing heat flow between the house and the outside.

Storm windows should be made of glass and permanently installed.

Water pipes can be protected from freezing and heat loss with insulation. Hot water supply lines can freeze just as easily as cold water supply lines. Consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes, such as a pipe sleeve or Underwriters Laboratories (UL)-listed heat tape, heat cable

or similar materials on exposed water pipes. Pipes should be carefully wrapped with ends butted tightly and joints wrapped with tape.

To help prevent your water pipes from freezing, drain water from your sprinkler system. Do not add antifreeze in the lines.

Remove, drain, and store outside hoses. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs. Open the outside hose bibs to allow water to drain.

Keep the outside valves open so any water remaining in the pipe can expand without causing the pipe to break.

Many of these products are available at your local building supply retailer. ■

Don't Break The Bank

Here's how to lower your energy bill and keep a full piggy bank:

- When you leave a room, turn off lights, televisions and music systems. Shut down computers if you will be away for long, or activate the unit's sleep mode for a short-term break.

- About 15 percent of your energy bill is for heating water. Lower the temperature on the water heater to 120 degrees and wash clothes in cold water.

- Don't heat unused space or rooms. Close doors and vents until you need the room, unless you have a heat pump.

- Weatherstrip windows and doors. Seal joints in exposed ductwork in the basement and attic.

- If you can, replace windows with more efficient ones. Or install storm windows or smooth plastic sheeting over the panes. Both can reduce heat loss 25 to 50 percent.

- Low-flow showerheads and sink aerators pump out less hot water. ■

Klickitat County Community Calendar

November

- 23-25 Holiday Open at Maryhill Winery, Maryhill.
24-25 Open House at Marshall's Winery, Dallesport.
24-25 Open House at Wind River Cellars, Husum.

December

- 1 I'm Dreaming of a White Salmon: Christmas in the Gorge and Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting, White Salmon.
7-8 Annual Golden Art Gallery Christmas Home Tour, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the 7th, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 8th. For more information, call (509) 773-5100.
8 Candy Cane Lane Parade, Christmas Tree Lighting and Santa in Goldendale. This year's theme is "A Homemade Country Christmas."

**To add your event to the calendar,
call (509) 773-7606!**