

# *Summer to Fall Energy Transition*

It seems fall and winter always come just a little too soon, and we're forced to say 'goodbye' to our shorts, t-shirts, and long days in the sun. As you transition your closet from summer clothes to much warmer layers, it's important to prepare your home to save energy, as well.

If you haven't already, spend time thinking about the impact cooler temps and colder precipitation have on your home: heavy, wet snow on your roof, harsh winds sweeping across your home's siding, and sharp, crisp frost covering your home's windows. It's a big seasonal change, and it can have significant impact on your energy bill.

Here are some of our favorite energy saving tips as the leaves (and the temperatures) fall:



**Seal up those windows.** While "any season is a good season to seal up the windows," fall and winter take priority. Harsh winds and temperature dips can pull the warmth out and push the cold air in. The best part? You can do it from inside the house!



**Schedule a maintenance appointment for your home's heating system.** Just like you, your heating system and water heater need a routine checkup to ensure everything is running at maximum efficiency. If not, you may be putting yourself at risk for inefficient energy usage, home fire, or other unwanted disasters.

In addition, remember to also check your air filters. It's a good idea to replace them on a seasonal basis, as they can get dirty and spike your energy usage. Breathe easier (and cleaner) with a new filter.



**Open the windows.** (Well, not too much) Make the most out of our planet's natural source of heat: the sun. Open your blinds, drapes, and/or curtains and let the sunshine pour in and close them when it isn't. Harnessing the heat from the sun may help decrease the amount of energy needed to warm your home. Also, consider replacing leaking windows.



**Adjust your thermostat.** Lowering your home's thermostat is a super quick and easy way to save energy. Consider keeping temps lower in the evenings while you're asleep, as well as when no one is home. Also, installing smart thermostats is a great energy savings option.



**Inspect your home's insulation.** It's easy to look at the obvious culprits when auditing your home's energy use (e.g. windows, doors, and thermostat). But what about what's behind the walls? In the attic? In addition to sealing up the windows, check to see if your home's walls, ceilings, and floors could use a boost too.



**Check your fireplace.** For homes with cozy fireplaces, remember this can be a culprit of increased energy costs. Be sure to do a thorough cleaning and check to see if any heat is escaping.



**Use ceiling fans to your advantage.** Ceiling fans can be used strategically to achieve better airflow: counter-clockwise will push hot air up in the summer and clockwise will trap heat inside to keep your rooms warmer during cooler months. Turn your ceiling fan on a low setting to gently push hot air back down.

**Bonus Tip:** *Since fans cool people — not rooms — turning off ceiling fans when you're out of the room will save money without any loss of comfort.*

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