

Get 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 jams, thresholds, and frames. Weather-stripping 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 located in unheated basements or in crawl spaces. If heat ducts are not insulated, they can waste more heat than they deliver.

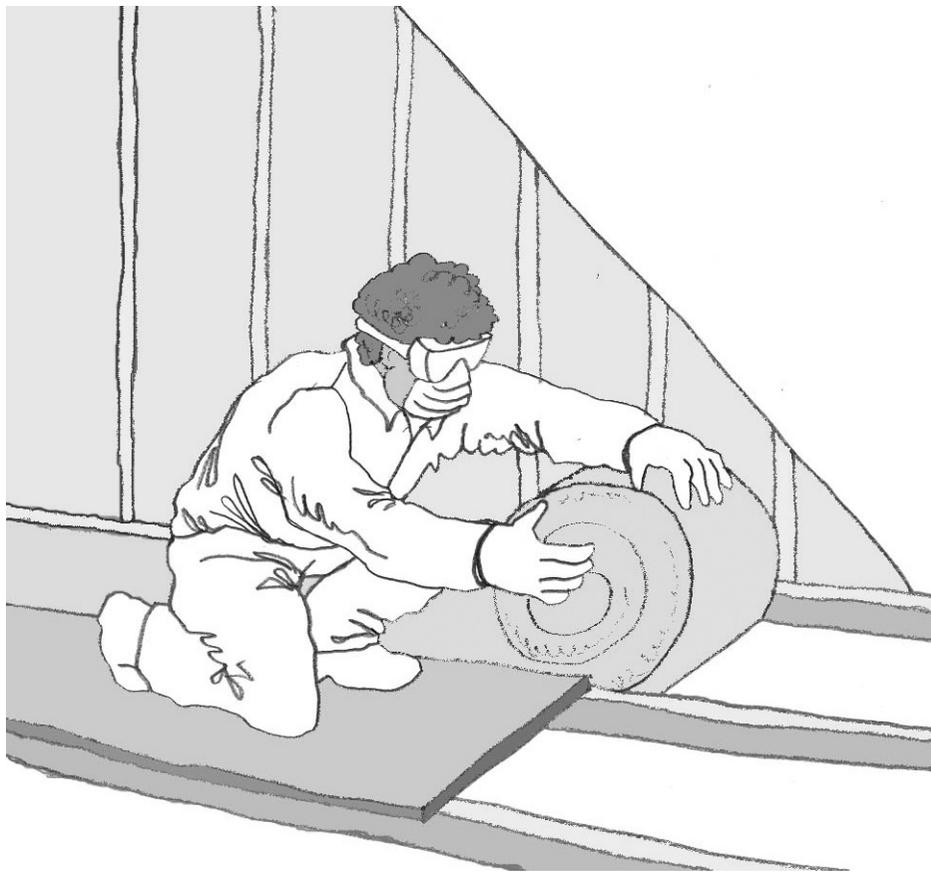
Glass is an ineffective insulator; single-pane windows lose a lot of heat. Storm windows work by providing a “dead air” space—usually of 1 to 4 inches—between the prime window and storm window. This dead air works like insulation, slowing heat flow between the house and the outside. Storm windows should 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. Install specific products to insulate water pipes, such as a pipe sleeve or UL-listed heat tape or heat cable 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 outside valves open so water remaining in the pipe can expand without breaking the pipe. ■



Electric Safety Tips For the Holidays

'Tis the season for holiday spirit and decorating. Light up your holiday the safe way by following these tips from Klickitat PUD:

- Use Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved lighting accessories.
 - Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
 - Do not overload your electrical outlets. Do not link more than three light strands together, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Make sure to periodically check the wires. They should not be warm to the touch.
 - Do not run electrical cords under a carpet.
 - Keep metal foil and tinsel away from electrical sockets.
 - Do not leave holiday lights on unattended. Unplug all Christmas lights before leaving your home or going to bed.
 - Outdoor lights should not be used indoors. They burn too hot.
 - Be sure to have working smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in your home.
 - Indoor lights should not be used outdoors, because they lack weather proof connections.
 - Outdoor electrical connections should be above ground and away from puddles of water or snow.
 - Do not use electrical ornaments or light strings on artificial trees with metallic leaves or branch coverings. This could create an electrical shock.
- Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season! ■