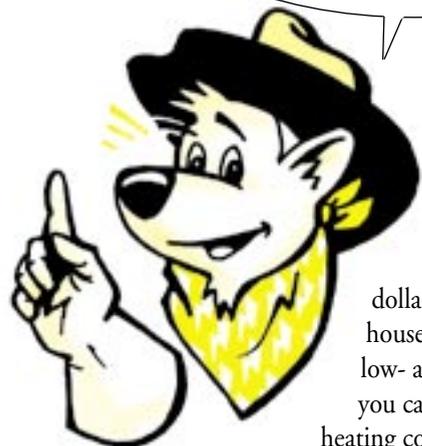


**A WELL-TUNED AND
MAINTAINED HEATING SYSTEM
WILL SAVE YOU ENERGY
AND MAKE YOU
MORE COMFORTABLE!**



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 unvented (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.
- The simplest and easiest way to save money this winter is to turn down your thermostat. A setting of 68 degrees during the day is both comfortable and economical. Even lower is possible, if you wear warm clothes. You can also save money by turning your thermostat down when you are away from the home during the day.
- Many people find that a setting as low as 55 degrees at night is both energy saving and refreshing. If that is too cold, find the lowest setting possible while still maintaining your comfort. With gas forced air furnaces you can expect to save one percent on your energy bill for every degree you turn your thermostat down at night. If you want to wake up to a warm and toasty house, you can invest in an electronic thermostat, available from hardware stores for less than \$75. These thermostats automatically lower and raise the temperature setting at the times

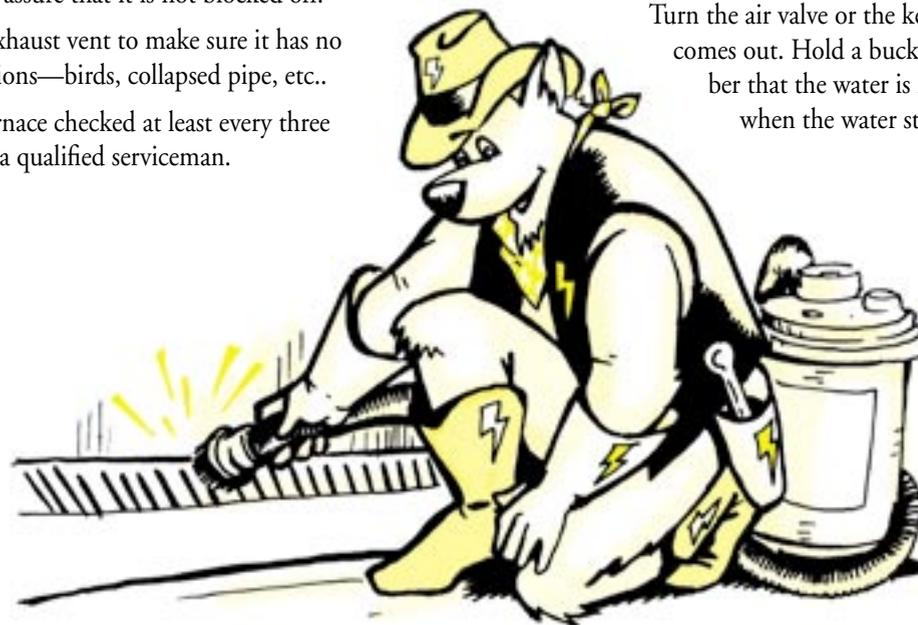
you specify. If you want more than one time setting or different weekend settings, pick a thermostat with that feature. Of course, settings for those with infants or elderly persons cannot be as low and you should always make sure that pipes sensitive to freezing are not at risk.

If you have a boiler, you can still save money by turning your thermostat down. Since the water in a boiler takes time to return to a temperature suitable for heating your home, you may not be able to lower the thermostat as much as with a forced air furnace.

- 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 ADDITIONAL HEATING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE
AND ENERGY TIPS CONTACT YOUR POWER
COMPANY, THE HRDC OR A REPUTABLE HEATING
CONTRACTOR IN YOUR AREA.**



**MONTANA WEATHERIZATION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR
LOW-INCOME FAMILIES**



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