

FALL TIPS FROM LI GREEN

Now that cool weather is arriving it's time to think about preparing for the cold winter weather. With October comes the time to turn on the heat in our homes. When you do this make sure that your heat is running efficiently. Did you remember to have your yearly maintenance service on your furnace or boiler? Did you weatherize your home during the warmer months when it was comfortable working outside?



Here are some tips from LI Green to help you save energy, increase your comfort in your home and help reduce your energy expenses.

- Set your thermostat no higher than 68 degrees when you are home and lower the temperature when you go to bed or when you are not at home. For every degree you lower your thermostat you save about 2 percent off your heating bill.
- Use programmable thermostats. Did you install these?
- Cut annual heating bills by as much as 10 percent a year by turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 percent for eight hours a day.
- Weatherize your home by caulking and weather-stripping all doors and windows.
- Close down the locks on your windows to make them tighter and draft resistant.
- Insulate or increase the amount of insulation in your attic, basement and outside walls. Without proper insulation the heat is just escaping – causing much fuel usage, high heating bills and feeling cold inside your home. The government offers a 30% tax credit for insulating.
- Cover through-the-wall air conditioners to prevent cold air from leaking into your home.
- Reducing air leaks could cut 10 percent from an average household's monthly energy bill. The most common places where air escapes homes are: floors, walls, ceilings, ducts, highhats, fireplaces, plumbing penetrations, doors, windows, fans, vents and electrical outlets.
- Keep shades and curtains open during the day on the south side of your home to allow solar heating. Close them at night to retain heat.
- Don't block your radiators or heating vents with furniture or draperies. Keep your radiators, registers and baseboard heaters dirt and dust free. Close vents and doors in unused rooms.
- Have your heating system serviced once a year and regularly replace furnace filters
- If your heating system is old or inefficient, it may be time to replace it. Look for EnergyStar rated systems. If your system is ok consider installing a Fuel Economizer which can save 10% or more.
- Close the fireplace damper when not in use.
- Turn your water heater down to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to save money on your energy bill. If you have children in the house, this is also a safety measure
- Install water-flow restrictors in showerheads and faucets.
- Place a sheet of aluminum foil between the radiator and the wall to reflect heat back into the room.

If you have been holding off having LI Green do an audit of your home, now is your chance before the cold weather hits and you face high heating bills as well as drafts and cold spots in your home. If you have had an audit and want to consider getting the recommended work done, now is the time! Contact LI Green if you would like either an audit done or a referral for insulating and weatherizing your home for maximum energy efficiency. Email info@ligreen.com or call 631-721-1908.