

Storm Doors Help Cut Heating Costs

(NAPSA)—The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that home-heating prices will jump by 47.5 percent this winter, the biggest one-year increase in three decades. But not everyone is going to be severely affected. There are things you can do to keep your home's energy costs in check.

Heat loss through and around doors and windows accounts for more than 25 percent of your home's heating and cooling costs, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Among the things you can do to improve the thermal integrity of your home is to cover leaky windows and doors. Adding storm doors and windows is one of the quickest and most inexpensive ways to combat the loss of energy through the openings of your home. Storm doors can increase the energy efficiency of the opening by up to 45 percent and the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that storm windows can reduce heat loss of the opening 25 to 50 percent. This is a significant difference for such a small investment.

When shopping for storm doors, look for those with overlapping frames. They conceal hinges and eliminate any gaps that could allow air to leak through. All storm doors include weather stripping but others offer additional protection by featuring double weather stripping. The storm doors seal tighter to the home, improving the thermal barrier.

Keeping out the cold isn't the only use for a good storm window or door. A good storm product is actually an "all-weather" management tool. They are as effective in hot weather to keep cool air from



You can get a door that offers the beauty of clear glass with a hidden retractable screen for easy ventilation.

leaking outside. On pleasant days, you can use them to let the fresh air in and give your air conditioner a much-needed break. According to June Eng of Larson Manufacturing, "Installing a new energy-efficient storm door or window not only cuts heating and cooling costs but also can make a beautiful difference in your home's appearance." Finding a color and style that will look good on your home should be easy, as there are literally dozens of options available. Larson, for example, offers over 40 different models in traditional and modern designs.

Larson is America's number-one selling storm door manufacturer. It has been building storm windows and doors for over 50 years.

For a look at the available models, log on to www.larsondoors.com.