

Budget Stretching Energy Ideas

Tips To Help You Save Money On Heating And Cooling Bills

(NAPSA)—You may be able to avoid getting hot under the collar when you contemplate your heating and cooling bills. Here are a few hints from the experts at the U.S. Department of Energy:

- Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.

- Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting or drapes.

- Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as needed.

- Use fans during the summer to create a windchill effect that will make your home more comfortable. If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will let you raise the thermostat setting about 4° F with no reduction in comfort.

- Install a programmable thermostat that can adjust the temperature according to your schedule.

- Insulate your hot water heater and hot water pipes.

- During the heating season, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to let the sunshine in and closed at night.

- Weatherize your home—caulk and weatherstrip any doors and windows that leak air.

- Consider adding a supplementary source of heating and cooling or simply replacing your system altogether.

For example, a split-ductless heat pump system can be an



Keeping a home comfortable while saving money and energy may be easier than many people realize.

excellent supplement to oil, gas and electric heat. With conventional heating systems, you typically move air through ductwork. This can be a huge energy loss and not very energy efficient. Conversely, with a split-ductless system, you move refrigerant from an outdoor unit to an indoor unit and only use as much as is needed to condition the space. This means lower energy costs.

You should consider the Mr. Slim® system from Mitsubishi Electric HVAC. It is a residential, split-ductless cooling and heating system powered by electricity that is three times more efficient than oil heat and much less expensive.

Mr. Slim systems feature INVERTER technology, which controls the speed of the compressor, delivering only the energy needed to satisfy the cooling and heating needs of a room, thereby reducing energy consumption for extra energy savings.

You can learn more online at www.mrslim.com.