

Tips To Lower Home Heating Bills As Prices Skyrocket

(NAPSA)—It's in all the news—the rising cost of home heating. As millions of Americans feel “sticker shock when opening their heating bills this winter, there is some good news for consumers. Consumers can lower their heating bills by following these simple, cost-efficient tips.

- **Inspection by a NATE-certified-technician**—Have your heating system checked annually by a NATE-certified-technician. Routine maintenance will increase the lifetime of your system and ensure more efficient operation during the winter.

- **Clean heating filters**—Clean your heating filters at least twice a season or as directed by the manufacturer.

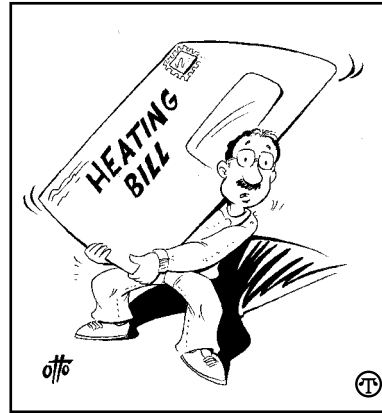
- **Insulate**—Make sure your attic and walls are properly insulated. Caulk around the windows and keep them closed tight. Add weather stripping to draft sources.

- **Turn down the thermostat**—Turn your thermostat down five degrees to save energy and still protect your pipes from freezing.

- **Clean the furnace closet**—Don't store chemicals or other household cleaning products near the furnace. The unit needs space for proper ventilation. Nearby, flammable items pose a potential fire hazard.

- **Keep vents clear of debris**—Don't block warm-air outlets and cold-air returns by covering them with carpets, furniture, or debris.

- **Install a humidifier to your heating system**—In winter



the air in your home becomes very dry; this may cause your skin to lose moisture, and could make you feel colder. Adding a humidifier to your heating system increases moisture in your home and maximizes your comfort.

This information is provided by North American Technician Excellence (NATE) the nation's largest non-profit certification organization for heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC/R) technicians. A NATE-certified technician is an individual who has demonstrated knowledge and technical skills in the installation and servicing of HVAC/R equipment.

The U.S. Department of Energy endorses NATE for its dedication in raising quality standards for installation and maintenance of HVAC/R equipment and contributing to increased energy efficiency.

For more information on NATE call 877-420-NATE, or visit the NATE Web site at www.natex.org.