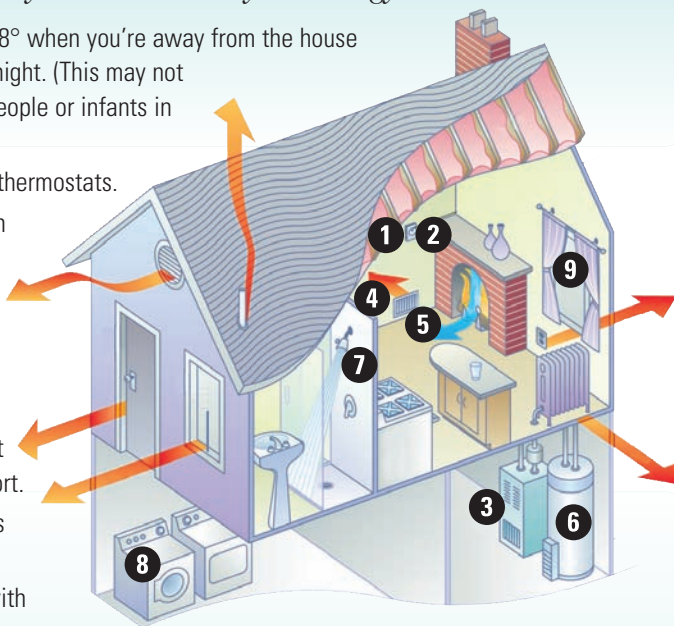


Prepare for an Energy-Wise Winter

Maximize your home's energy efficiency and minimize your energy bill.

1. Set thermostats no higher than 70° and at 58° when you're away from the house for more than a few hours or in bed for the night. (This may not be advisable if you have frail, ill or elderly people or infants in your home.)
2. Install automatic set back or programmable thermostats.
3. Change or clean furnace filters once a month during the heating season.
4. Warm air rises, so use registers to direct warm airflow across the floor.
5. Close vents and doors in unused rooms and close fireplace dampers when not in use.
6. Set water heater temperatures at 120° to cut water heating bills without sacrificing comfort.
7. Install water-flow restrictors in showerheads and faucets.
8. Run washing machines and clothes dryers with a full load.
9. Open draperies and blinds on sunny days to let the warmth in and close at night to insulate against cold air outside.



HERE ARE A FEW MORE TIPS FOR MANAGING WINTER HEATING COSTS:

Take the worry out of bill payments. Budget Billing spreads your utility costs evenly over 12 months. It's a great tool for planning your monthly budget because you'll know what your RG&E bill is going to be in advance. For more information or to enroll, visit rge.com or call us at **1.800.743.2110**.

If you are having trouble paying your RG&E bills, contact us right away at **1.877.266.3492**. The sooner you do, the sooner we can work on a solution together.

If you need help with winter heating bills, you might be eligible for a Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) grant. HEAP is a federal program that provides financial assistance to eligible households. The 2009-2010 HEAP season begins November 2 and closes when funds are exhausted. Eligibility depends on household income and family size. Contact your local Department of Social Services for more information or to apply for a grant.



Check rge.com and read our bill inserts for important information on using energy wisely. Some simple steps can go a long way.



Eastern Standard Time Begins Sunday, November 1.

When setting clocks back, don't forget to replace batteries in battery-operated smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Test Your Energy IQ

By using energy wisely, you can better manage your energy costs while maintaining the comfort of your home and protecting the environment. Test your energy IQ with the following quiz:

▶ WHAT IS YOUR THERMOSTAT SETTING?

1. In winter during the day if your setting is:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| m 68° or less, score 6 points | m 69°, score 5 points |
| m 70°, score 4 points | m 71°, score 3 points |
| m 72°, score 2 points | m 73°, score 1 point |
| m 74° or more, score 0 points | SCORE _____ |

2. On winter nights if your setting is:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| m 60° or less, score 10 points | m 61°, score 9 points |
| m 62°, score 8 points | m 63°, score 7 points |
| m 64°, score 6 points | m 65°, score 5 points |
| m 66° or more, score 0 points | SCORE _____ |

▶ IS YOUR HOUSE DRAFTY?

To check drafts, hold a tissue where windows and doors meet their frames.

3. If the tissue doesn't move, there is no draft around your windows, score 10 points.

SCORE _____

4. If there is no draft around your doors, score 5 points.

SCORE _____

5. If you keep your fireplace or woodstove damper closed to block the air flow when it's not in use, score 6 points. (Score 6 points if you have no fireplace.)

SCORE _____

6. If you have storm windows or high-efficiency, insulating windows, score 10 points.

SCORE _____

7. If you have storm doors or a vestibule, score 5 points.

SCORE _____

▶ IS YOUR HOUSE INSULATED?

8. If you have 6 inches or more in your attic, score 20 points. If you have 2 to 4 inches, score 10 points.

SCORE _____

9. If all exterior walls are insulated, score 10 points.

SCORE _____

▶ IS YOUR FLOOR INSULATED?

10. If there is an unheated space under your house and your floor is insulated, score 10 points. If you have a heated basement and the basement walls are insulated, score 10 points.

SCORE _____

▶ SPACE AND WATER HEATING

11. Depending on your heating system, score 6 points if your heating system was serviced since last winter or you regularly change filters on your forced air system or you clean baseboard units on your baseboard heating system.

SCORE _____

12. If the water heater temperature setting is 120° or lower, score 6 points. If above 120°, score 0 points.

SCORE _____

▶ NOW ADD LINES 1 – 12 TO GET YOUR QUICK QUIZ TOTAL SCORE: _____

What Your Score Means

84 or above: Congratulations! You're making energy-wise decisions. To further control costs, look at the age and ENERGY STAR® rating of your appliances.

70 to 83 points: Review the areas where your score was lower and visit rge.com (click on "Using Energy Wisely" under the "Usage and Safety" heading).

69 or under: There's room for improvement. Look at the quiz again. The areas you scored the fewest points may be the best places to start.



Look Up ... Look Out!

Autumn's here and RG&E reminds you to Look Up...Look Out! when cleaning gutters or trimming trees near power lines.

Remember that aluminum siding, gutters and ladders can conduct electricity. If any of these items touch an overhead power line, the results could be deadly.

You may want to consider hiring a professional to clean out gutters and it's a must for trimming trees near power lines.

REMEMBER: No power line is safe to touch, ever.

Part of RG&E's commitment to the environment ...
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