

## A Long, Cold Winter? Simple Energy Projects Can Save You a Bundle

With heating prices up, it's time to consider saving energy with programmable thermostats, insulation, weatherstripping and upgrading windows and doors.

### **Programmable thermostat**

Electronic thermostats that lower the temperature while you are in bed or away from home are the fastest, easiest way to save energy. In a cold climate, you can save about 5% for a 5° setback that lasts for eight hours. Most of these thermostats sell for less than \$100, and they're ultra-easy to install.

### **Insulation**

*Floor of unheated attic:* Check recommended insulation levels, and lay new insulation at right angles to the old.

*Basement or crawl space:* Fasten foam or fiberglass panels to the walls and cover with drywall. Either glue panels to the wall or fasten them to furring strips.

*Heating ducts:* Insulate in unheated attic or basement by wrapping with fiberglass insulation.

### **Weatherstrip**

Weatherstripping is a flexible sealer for the moving parts of windows and doors. Many new windows and doors require a specific type of weatherstrip, which you may locate in hardware stores or on the Web. The generic "V-strip" adapts to many doors and windows and can even be applied in cold weather. The weatherstrip at the threshold often needs replacement. If the door bottom is still leaky, add a door sweep to seal against the floor or threshold.

### **Caulking**

Caulking seals exterior cracks around windows, doors, pipes, and vents. Scrape away old caulking and dirt, then squirt caulking into the crack.

### **Replace windows**

Jamb kits are an easy way to update double-hung windows, with a product that can be installed and cleaned from the inside. You can install a jamb kit in less than an hour without touching the storm window, jambs, or casing molding. Order a kit to match the size of your window. Nail the vertical tracks inside the side jambs and insert the replacement sash.

### **Replace storm door**

Battered storm doors are easy to replace on a standard-size door opening. A wooden door has better durability and will insulate better. Strip off the old door and follow directions while screwing the new one to the jambs, using a drill and other basic tools.

