

Controlling Home Drafts Can Save On Heating Costs

(KAIR)--With the onset of cooler weather fast approaching, people may start to think of how to best winterize their home in an effort to reduce energy costs.

Preventing cold air from entering the home and keeping warm air from escaping is one of the best way to control costs. Windows are a major source of heat loss, and Bruce Snead, Director of Extension Engineering at K-State says this is especially true in older homes. Factors such as window orientation, the amount of windows and their size also play a role in how windows cost you for heating and cooling. He adds that even if you have old, leaky windows, you can always add an interior layer of plastic film for more insulation.

To stop drafts around exterior doors, caulk the outside door frame, and create a draft stopper for underneath doors that leak cold air into the home. Snead also suggests installing foam insulators behind the faceplates of electrical outlets and light switches:

To reduce the amount of energy used when no one is home, or when less heat is needed, Snead suggests installing a programmable thermostat to regulate the heat based on how your family lives. Every degree that you drop in the permanent setting on your thermostat, you could save as much as three percent on your heating costs.

Snead also suggests reversing the direction of ceiling fans to push hot air downward to delay it from leaving the house, and dressing in multiple layers to conserve body heat.

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