

EXPECT LESS HEATING HELP THIS WINTER

This year, there are less than half as many dollars available in Michigan for heating assistance.



HEAT YOUR HOME SAFELY!

USE APPLIANCES SAFELY Use appliances for their intended purpose ONLY. Don't use electric or gas oven to heat your home.

KEEP ALL COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS AWAY FROM THE FLAME of your gas appliances. Keep burners and surrounding surfaces clean. Keep the area around heating units and flues clear. Don't use gas fuel lines as clotheslines. **NEVER BURN PAPER**, green wood, or trash in your fireplace as they cause heavy creosote buildup.

DON'T BLOCK FURNACE ROOM or other air vents. Gas and wood appliances require air to burn fuel completely and operate efficiently. A yellowish flame in a gas appliance can signal improper operation. **CHECK FLUES AND CHIMNEYS** Make sure flues and chimneys are rust-free, securely attached, and correctly vented.

CHECK PILOT LIGHTS

If the pilot flame goes out on a gas appliance, shut off the gas supply at the appliance's valve and allow time for gas to escape. Follow the re-light procedure on the appliance. Call your gas provider with concerns.

CHECK FIRE EXTINGUISHERS and SMOKE DETECTORS

Keep a fire extinguisher in a central location. Be sure it is in good working order and that everyone knows how to use it. Place smoke detectors throughout the house and test regularly.

SPACE HEATERS Be sure your space heater has a feature that shuts power off if it falls over. Never leave unattended or go to sleep while your space heater is operating.

SUPERVISE CHILDREN Children MUST be supervised AT ALL TIMES when using wood stoves, space heaters and gas appliances.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

LOWER YOUR ENERGY COSTS

PAY YOUR HEATING BILLS FIRST

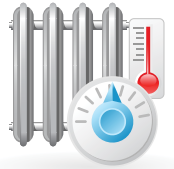
Unless you are a senior citizen and a customer of a regulated utility company, you can/will be turned off for non-payment.

FIND AN AFFORDABLE BUDGET PLAN

Talk with your utility company now about an affordable budget plan option for your household. Once you have run up a balance, the payments will not be affordable

TURN DOWN YOUR THERMOSTAT

Lower your thermostat to 65° F during the day and 55° F at night. Each degree below 72° F reduces your heating costs by approximately 1-2%.



ASK FOR HELP



CONTACT YOUR UTILITY PROVIDER

If you cannot pay your monthly bill, immediately contact your utility provider to see if there is an affordable payment plan for you. If so, pay this bill first each month.

APPLY FOR STATE HELP

If you have a shut off notice and are unable to pay your bill, apply at the Michigan Department of Human Services for State Emergency Relief (SER) funds.

CALL THE SALVATION ARMY

If you still need help, call the Salvation Army to see if assistance is available.
Ypsilanti residents: (734) 482-4700
Ann Arbor or other county residents: (734) 668-8353

DIAL 2-1-1

to find out if there are other community resources available to you.

CLOSE OFF ONE OR TWO UNUSED ROOMS in your house and cover windows at night.

INSTALL PLASTIC INSULATION OVER WINDOWS to reduce heat loss.

DRESS WARMLY and add extra blankets to your bed.

You'll be more comfortable turning down the heat.

Layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing will keep you warmer than one bulky sweater. Remove layers to avoid overheating, perspiration and subsequent chill.



INSTALL A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT

or ask your landlord to install one.

FIND ADDITIONAL ENERGY SAVING TIPS ONLINE

<http://www.energysavers.gov/tips/> OR <http://bit.ly/dRQQZi>

IF YOUR HEAT IS TURNED OFF

FIND ANOTHER PLACE TO STAY

Consider staying with a friend or relative who has heat until danger passes.

CARE FOR CHILDREN

Make sure children and vulnerable adults are protected and cared for.



EAT REGULARLY

Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat.

DRINK FLUIDS such as warm broth or juices to prevent dehydration. Avoid caffeine and alcohol. Caffeine accelerates the symptoms of hypothermia. Alcohol speeds up the effects of cold on the body and slows circulation. This can make you less aware of the effects of cold. Caffeine and alcohol cause dehydration.

