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# Tips for Fall Energy Savings

*As temperatures dip, try these suggestions for saving energy—and watch your costs drop, too!*

## Check in With Your Furnace

Having a qualified HVAC professional service your furnace before the fall/winter heating season gets going full blast is a great idea. Remember to check your furnace filters yourself and change them if needed. (It is recommended that homeowners replace their furnace filters every 2 – 3 months.)

## Seal up Your Home

Installing weather stripping around doors and caulking around building cracks can prevent chilly fall and winter drafts from entering your home, while helping to keep warmed air inside. Properly weatherizing your home can save you up to 8% on your energy bills.

## Keep Those Gutters Clear

Beautiful, colorful leaves may have accumulated in your gutters this fall. Clogged gutters can cause a variety of problems including basement flooding, pooling water, and increased sump pump usage leading to higher energy bills and expensive home repairs. Make sure to keep those gutters clear this season.

## Close the Flue

If you have a fireplace, keep the fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning or there are embers present. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter—it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.

## Run it Full!

Fall means big games, big gatherings, big meals—and big piles of dishes. Dishwashers use the same amount of energy and water, no matter how full they are. So, to maximize efficiency and save energy, make sure to run your dishwasher only when it is full!

## Take Advantage of the Sun

Open curtains on the south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat the home and close them at night to re-

duce the chill from cold windows. Down the road, plant deciduous trees on the south-facing side of your home, especially in proximity to windows. They will let the light and warmth in through the windows during the winter and will shade the windows from heat and glare in the summer.

## ENERGY STAR and Best TV Practices

As Iowans cheer on the Hawkeyes, Cyclones, Panthers, and Bulldogs, many people will wake up early on a Saturday and leave college football on the TV all day. If you have an ENERGY STAR-rated television, leaving college sports on all day will be much less expensive than viewing the big games on an older TV. And, consider turning off the television when no one is in the room for extra savings.

