

## MANAGE YOUR ENERGY BILLS

Make your energy bills easier to manage with BudgetWise® Billing. BudgetWise Billing takes the seasonal ups and downs out of your energy bills by spreading your payments equally over a 12-month period. Learn more at [dteenergy.com/bwb](http://dteenergy.com/bwb) or call **800.477.4747**.

## GET REBATES

*Upgrade or tune up your heating system now, before cold weather returns.*

- ❖ \$400 Rebate on a 95% AFUE high-efficiency natural gas furnace
- ❖ \$1,000 Rebate on a 92% AFUE high-efficiency natural gas boiler
- ❖ \$50 Rebate on a natural gas furnace tune-up

Call **866.796.0512** or visit [dteenergy.com/saveenergy](http://dteenergy.com/saveenergy)

**COLD WEATHER IS JUST AROUND  
THE CORNER. DON'T WAIT!**

## MORE WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

Learn more ways to use less energy at [dteenergy.com/saveenergy](http://dteenergy.com/saveenergy) or call **866.796.0512**.

- ❖ Tour the interactive house and learn about no cost, low cost and long term energy-saving solutions for your home.
- ❖ Watch energy savings videos and try the energy calculators.
- ❖ When you complete "MyEnergy Analyzer," an interactive tool that helps you evaluate and save energy in your home, DTE Energy will send you a free energy efficiency kit worth \$25.

***DTE Energy wants you and your family to be warm and comfortable this winter. We want to help you manage your winter energy costs by offering you this information. Thank you for your business.***



# WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREPARE NOW FOR THE WINTER HEATING SEASON?



**DTE Energy®**

## EVEN SMALL CHANGES CAN ADD UP TO BIG ENERGY SAVINGS

**Before winter's icy winds begin to blow, make sure your home and heating system are ready to keep you and your family warm and comfortable.**

### FURNACE MAINTENANCE

*A well-maintained heating system will operate more efficiently and reduce your energy use. To ensure your heating system will work when you need it most, have your furnace or boiler cleaned and checked annually by a licensed contractor.*

**Here are some tasks you may be able to do yourself:**

- ❖ Clean or replace the furnace or air filter regularly. Filters reduce the amount of dust and dirt that flow through your ductwork and into your home. Dirty filters block airflow, causing your furnace to work harder and less economically.
- ❖ Make sure your chimney is not blocked by debris, such as bird nests, leaves, loose mortar or dirt.
- ❖ Inspect the flue pipes from the furnace and gas water heater to make sure they are tightly sealed and free from rust to protect yourself and your family from carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ❖ Inspect your ductwork for air leaks, especially at joints. Seal air leaks with foil-faced tape rather than duct tape.

**Use less energy by following these tips:**

- ❖ Install a programmable thermostat. A programmable thermostat offers pre-programmed settings to regulate your home's temperature when you're asleep or away.



- ❖ Dial down your thermostat. Each degree you lower your thermostat below 72°F reduces your heating costs by about three percent.
- ❖ Clean and vacuum ducts, vents and heat registers and make sure drapes and furniture do not block airflow.
- ❖ If you have a radiant heat system or boiler, place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
- ❖ Use insulated drapes or other window coverings to help reduce drafts and keep the warm air inside. On sunny days, open drapes and shades and let the sunlight warm your home.

### WEATHERIZE YOUR HOME

*Weatherizing your home, by sealing air leaks and adding insulation, is one of the most cost effective ways to improve energy efficiency and comfort.*

**Sealing leaks can reduce heating bills by as much as 10 percent:**

- ❖ Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air.
- ❖ Caulk to seal air leaks where plumbing, ductwork and wiring go through walls, ceilings and floors.
- ❖ Add foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on all exterior walls.
- ❖ Install storm windows or plastic window sheeting over single-pane windows.
- ❖ Seal all gaps and cracks where the house frame sits on top of the foundation.

**Insulation blocks heat loss, lowers energy use and makes your home more comfortable:**

- ❖ The attic is the easiest and most cost effective place to add insulation. If the ceiling joists are exposed, more insulation should be added.
- ❖ Add blown-in or loose-fill cellulose on top of batt or rolled insulation to increase the R-value of your attic insulation.
- ❖ Use higher density insulation (such as rigid foam insulation) on exterior walls, if possible.
- ❖ If your attic has enough insulation and your home still feels drafty and cold in the winter, you may need to have a contractor add insulation to the exterior walls.