FREE HOMEOWNER GUIDE

15 Low-Cost Ways to Lower Your Winter Heating Bill in Oklahoma

Practical steps for gas furnace and heat pump homes across the Oklahoma City metro.

Heating bills in Oklahoma tend to spike in a few hard weeks rather than climb all winter. The good news is that most savings come from small habits and cheap fixes, not a new system.

The U.S. Department of Energy says turning your thermostat back 7 to 10 degrees for 8 hours a day can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling. Start there, then work down this list.

1 Set the thermostat to 68 while you're awake

Each degree above 68 adds to the bill. Most families are comfortable at 68 with a sweater and socks.

- [ ] Daytime home: 68
- [ ] Overnight: a few degrees lower

2 Use setbacks when nobody is home

With a gas furnace, drop the temperature 7 to 10 degrees during work hours and schedule it to warm up 30 minutes before you get back.

- [ ] Program a weekday setback schedule
- [ ] Schedule warm-up before wake time and arrival

3 Keep heat pump setbacks small

Large setbacks on a heat pump can trigger backup electric heat strips during recovery, which cost far more to run. Keep setbacks to 2 to 4 degrees.

- [ ] Limit setbacks to 2 to 4 degrees
- [ ] Ask your technician whether your thermostat limits backup heat

4 Set the fan to AUTO

The ON setting runs the blower nonstop. It uses electricity all day and pushes cooler air between heating cycles.

- [ ] Thermostat fan on AUTO

5 Change the filter every 1 to 3 months

A dirty filter makes the blower work harder and the system run longer for the same heat.

- [ ] Check the filter monthly in winter
- [ ] Buy filters in bulk so you always have one ready

6 Let the sun in, then close the blinds

Open south-facing curtains on sunny winter days and close them at dusk to hold the heat in.

- [ ] Open south-facing curtains in the morning
- [ ] Close all curtains at sunset

7 Weatherstrip doors and windows

Drafts make a room feel colder, which leads to turning the thermostat up. Weatherstripping and door sweeps cost little and install in minutes.

- [ ] Check doors and windows for drafts
- [ ] Add weatherstripping or sweeps

8 Seal attic and outlet gaps

Small gaps around attic hatches, recessed lights and outlets on exterior walls add up. Foam outlet gaskets and attic hatch insulation are cheap fixes.

- [ ] Insulate the attic hatch or pull-down stairs
- [ ] Add foam gaskets behind outlet covers on outside walls

9 Close the fireplace damper

An open damper on a cold night works like an open window and pulls heated air up the chimney.

- [ ] Damper closed when no fire is burning

10 Keep vents open and unblocked

Closing vents in unused rooms does not save money on most central systems. It raises duct pressure and can increase leaks.

- [ ] All supply vents open
- [ ] Furniture and rugs off vents and returns

11 Run ceiling fans clockwise on low

In winter, a clockwise spin on low gently pushes warm air that collects near the ceiling back down into the room.

- [ ] Switch ceiling fan direction to clockwise
- [ ] Run on the lowest speed

12 Lower the temperature when you travel

Leaving for the holidays? Set the thermostat to about 55. That saves energy while keeping pipes inside walls from freezing.

- [ ] Travel setting: about 55
- [ ] Never turn heat completely off in winter

13 Check ducts in the attic

Many OKC-area homes run ductwork through hot summer attics that are also cold in winter. Disconnected or leaky ducts can lose a large share of heated air before it reaches a room.

- [ ] Look for crushed, torn or disconnected ducts
- [ ] Ask a technician to check duct connections at your tune-up

14 Use a smart or programmable thermostat

A schedule only saves money if it runs every day. A smart thermostat handles setbacks automatically and can show where your runtime goes.

- [ ] Pick a model that matches your system type
- [ ] Set it up with your real weekly schedule

15 Get a yearly heating tune-up

A clean, adjusted system burns fuel more completely and catches worn parts early. It also lowers the chance of a costly repair in the middle of a cold snap.

- [ ] Schedule a tune-up every fall

When to call a licensed technician

- Bills jump sharply even though your habits have not changed.
- Some rooms stay cold no matter the setting.
- Your heat pump runs nonstop or the thermostat often shows AUX or EM heat.
- The furnace is more than 15 years old and needs frequent repairs.

My notes

Write down anything you want a technician to check, plus your system details.

Furnace or heat pump brand _____

Model number _____

Approximate age _____

Filter size _____

Last tune-up date _____

Need a hand with your heating?

Oklahoma Climate Solutions is a family-owned heating and air company based in Moore, serving Oklahoma City, Edmond, Norman, Midwest City, Yukon and nearby towns. We repair, maintain and install furnaces, heat pumps and air conditioners, and we give free estimates on new systems.

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