

14 Ways To Keep Your Home Warm During Winter (Save Money!)

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Most days, the newspaper likes to delight in predicting when it will snow, whether it's tomorrow, on a Sunday weekend, or perhaps it will happen over Christmas?

Should we be reminded of how chilly it will be? We will cover ways to keep your house warm throughout the winter months and make your life easier. It's that time of year where you will need to prepare for the worst that the British weather has to throw at you.

It's not only about getting your home ready for the coldest, wettest time of year; it's also about making sure it's water-tight, air-tight, and ship-shape before the winter.

In the United Kingdom, people generally turn on their central heating in October and use it daily until March or April. It coincides with the clocks going back, the drop in temperature, and Winter Fuel Payments to anyone who receives their pension.

Over 70% of household energy consumption is due to heating their homes. This carbon reduction can be achieved while still keeping homes sufficiently warm to fulfill the carbon-cutting commitments that the UK government is required by law to perform.

Recent figures taken from 2019 show that 3.18m of households in the UK are in fuel poverty, which means that 13.4% of British homes cannot afford to keep warm. While the scope of this problem is significant, it does not have to be complicated or expensive, so here are a few ways to keep your home warm this winter.

Follow them, and you'll save money before the Christmas season arrives.

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1. Introduce Soft Furnishings

Maybe add a rug to go with your beautiful hardwood floors, install thick curtains so you don't lose heat from your window, and use lots of soft, thick materials on sofas like throws, blankets, and cushions.

This suggestion is a double winner since you'll save money on heating while also making your house into a cosy and welcoming refuge that is pleasant to return.

Additionally, you may want to replace furniture which has leather, they may be more durable, but during the winter, they get unbearably cold and take ages to heat up.

2. Hang Curtains Over Your Windows

Not only do curtains help keep warmth in, but they can also dampen the sound of rain or wind coming through your window.

The heat from the sun is free, so take advantage of most of it during the day, open your curtains and accept the sunlight to make good use of this free heat. Shut your curtains at night, which serve as another layer of insulation and keep the heat in your house.

It's also a good idea to inspect for any leaks or gaps so that the heated air remains in and the cold air stays out; this also helps to minimise condensation.

3. Move Your Sofas Away From Radiators

It may feel wonderful to sit in front of the radiator, but it's absorbing heat that might be keeping your home warm, and by moving it away from the radiator, hot air can circulate freely. Similarly, be careful about your curtains or drying clothing, as they need to be kept separate from the radiator to get the most out of your heat source.

4. Use An Electric Blanket To Keep Warm

One of the most popular ways to save money during winter is by getting an electric blanket. You can place it under your sheets or wrap yourself up in it before you go to bed.

Your body heat will keep it warm while enhancing blood circulation and making you feel nice and cosy. Plus, they are not that expensive, so you won't have to worry about spending too much money.

Another good thing is that you can adjust the temperature, so if you are feeling cold, turn it up for a little bit until your

body warms up again.

5. Use Room Heaters For Quick Heat

If you have large rooms in your house, try heating them with room heaters instead of turning up the central heating system. This suggestion will save you energy and money since heating large spaces takes quite a lot of time and power compared to smaller ones.

The bedroom tends to stay colder than other rooms during winter since it doesn't get as much sunlight or heat from the body, making it perfect for ditching the sheets and snuggling with a room heater.

6. Use Timers On Your Central Heating

Ensuring you programme the boiler to turn on the heating a little earlier is something the Centre for Sustainable Energy suggests every homeowner implements. Turning on your heating 30 minutes before you get out of bed in the morning will be more cost-effective than turning it on when required at the maximum temperature.

You see, a boiler will heat water at a constant flow regardless of setting the thermostat to 20°C or 30°C; it's good practice to start low and gradually increase if the room still feels cold.

7. Fit Insulation Throughout Your Loft

Homes will lose heat at a rate of 25% through the roof. Roof insulation can readily reduce roof insulation by incorporating 25cm of insulation throughout your loft.

It's worth keeping an eye on what's happening in your walls because a third of the heat lost from an uninsulated home is due to evaporation. Cavity wall insulation, which is less expensive to install than loft insulation, may save up to £160 each year in heating costs.

It's also worth going through your energy company to see if they have any insulation programs running, which may save you money on installation.

8. Wrap Up Your Hot Water Cylinder

Make sure your hot water cylinder is lagged or insulated if you have one to keep the water warmer for longer and decrease heating expenses.

According to the Energy Community, another excellent opportunity to save you hundreds of pounds over time is insulating an uninsulated water tank. Insulating an uninsulated water tank can save up to £150 a year, but even just changing your cylinder "old jacket" will help you save money.

Not only do fully-insulated cylinders work better while retaining hot water for much more extended periods, but they're also highly cost-effective and straightforward to install yourself if you know what you're doing.

And if you have the money to spend, hot water cylinders that are "completely out of sight" in your loft or an airing

cupboard can save space and keep them out of view. You no longer need to look at them!

9. Turn Down The Heating Thermostat

How does turning down the heating thermostat help reduce or save me money? Previously, the World Health Organization recommended a minimum temperature of 21°C for the living room, however in 2014, Public Health England reduced it by advising to stick to 18°C. Doesn't that seem more counterintuitive?

According to current research, lowering your thermostat by 1°C can save you up to 10% on your heating bill. Keep the dial on your thermostat set at 18°C to save money and avoid the negative impacts of a cold home.

10. Block Out & Eliminate Any Draughts

The heating and the money you pay for it could be leaking out from cracks and gaps in your home. The windows, which are made of double-glazed glass, allow for natural air circulation.

These gaps allow cool, clean air from the exterior to enter your home. You'll need to draught-proof your home since the heat escapes through these cracks; it's a simple and inexpensive procedure that pays for itself.

Purchase some low-cost draught-proofing strips from your local hardware store once you've found the draughts. Don't forget door and window draught excluders, as well as keyhole covers and a decent letterbox flap for doors.

You may do it yourself on a tight budget with self-adhesive rubber seals for doors and windows, as well as door draught excluders that are cheap and simple to install.

So it's worth getting your doors and windows sealed before winter starts to bite. According to the Energy Saving Trust, draught-proofing your doors, windows, and cracks in the floor might save you £25 per year.

This easy and inexpensive draught-proofing project will help you save money on lost heat. Even if you don't live in a cold environment, you may still save money by purchasing a clear glass door.

You'll also be able to double down on savings since a warmer, draught-free house allows your thermostat to go lower at least 1°C. Potentially saving another £80 on your yearly heating expense.

11. Install Thermostatic Radiator Valves

When it comes to savings, energy-efficient home thermostats are one of the most cost-effective options. According to research at the University of Salford, replacing existing heating controls and thermostatic radiator valves saves 40 per cent more energy than a house with no controls.

Like the one in your house, these thermostats automatically turn off when it reaches a pre-determined temperature or when no one is left inside.

You can program them to come on at specific times throughout the day and night, and you can also use smart appliances to regulate the temperature remotely. So you may turn on your heating as you're driving home, ensuring

that it's cosy and warm when you arrive.

12. Get Your Boiler Serviced Annually

Boilers consume roughly 55% of our yearly energy, according to the Energy Saving Trust. For the next four months, you'll be turning it on and off twice a day, so it's only natural to get your boiler serviced once a year to help it function as smoothly as possible while also saving money on heating bills.

Your boiler may have acquired minor, fixable flaws since last winter; these are the ones that, if left unaddressed, might turn into a major problem once the winter months arrive.

Engineers are generally less busy during the fall than in the winter, so get it done as soon as feasible to avoid having your boiler break down on you.

13. Upgrade Your Old Combi Boiler

If your boiler is now more than 10 years old, it may be time to replace it with a new, more efficient model.

Depending on your old boiler type and home, you could save up to £350 with a new A-rated condensing boiler which uses less energy to produce the same amount of heat. Plus, if it's new, you're less likely to have any issues going into the winter season.

14. Install Reflective Radiator Panels

Another cost-effective and quick method to keeping your home warm is to install reflective radiator panels for your radiators. These panels work by reflecting the heat escaping from your radiators towards the walls by literally bouncing the heat back into the room.

You can purchase them at a regular DIY shop relatively cheap, and by following the instructions to install them, it can be done easily by yourself.

Conclusion

With the cold, wintery months approaching, it's always best to get your home ready if you want to stay warm this winter; it's essential to take some simple steps.

These tips should help ensure your home is as comfortable and efficient as possible for the cold months ahead, and you are well prepared for a cosy winter season.

From ensuring your home is adequately fitted and wrapped up in insulation in your loft space, installing thermostatic radiator valves or reflective panels on radiators, anything helps!

You can also use room heaters if you want quick heat without turning the central heating too high, and with an electric blanket, you'll feel warm at night but not overheated during daytime hours.

Perfect for snuggling under before bedtime with a good book or show while sipping hot chocolate or mulled wine!

Draughts have all been detected and eliminated, radiators bled and checked regularly, not forgetting to check the central heating timers too! It may also be time to upgrade your boiler or install radiant flooring for a more stable temperature.

Just keep in mind that there are many ways in which draughts can enter a room, so if you have any gaps or cracks around windows or doors, now is the time to seal them up before they let out too much heat!

Even better investing in an electric blanket, then not only will your heating bills be lower but also enjoy warmer evenings with family and friends without feeling guilty.

You need to ensure that you have gone through all of these tips and checked off your list for the cold months ahead, and wishing you a very cosy winter!

We hope you found this helpful list and easily digestible, but if you want more advice or tips on keeping your home warm this winter, keep coming to read our content.

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