

# Check heating equipment and complete any needed maintenance

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years. Storm window kits also are available for patio doors.

Making sure heating equipment is operating properly is an important part of your winter tune-up. Oil furnaces and boilers should be tuned up every year. Take advantage of rebates and loans available through the State Home Oil Weatherization (SHOW) program for high-efficiency flame retention burners. Call for details: 1-800-452-8660 (toll-free).

Gas furnaces need a tune-up and safety test at least every five years. Tune-ups for all combustion heaters should include a combustion efficiency test. If you have a heat pump, have its performance and refrigerant charge tested every year.

In many homes, as much as one-third of heat from the furnace is wasted before it gets to living spaces. Leaky ducts are the culprit. Seal any obvious holes and reattach disconnected ducts. Insulate ducts in garages, attics and crawl spaces.

Clogged furnace filters reduce system efficiency. Vacuum or wash filter(s) monthly. Replace clogged filters.

Remove electric baseboard covers and vacuum dust and dirt on the fins. Move furniture and tie up drapes that block baseboard heat.

Insulating ceilings, walls

and floors warms them up and reduces heat loss. What insulation values are cost-effective for your home? A free home energy audit will give you a detailed report on measures that will save you the most money, the fastest.

Electric and gas utilities provide audits at no charge for their heating customers. If

you heat with oil, wood or propane, call the SHOW program to schedule a free audit: 1-800-452-8660.

Some utilities and the SHOW program offer low-interest loans for home weatherization. Rebates also may be available for the work you want to have done.

Publications on home

weatherization are available free of charge from Oregon Energy Line, a service of the Oregon Department of Energy and the Oregon State University Extension Energy Program. Call toll-free in Oregon 24-hours a day: 1-800-457-9394. Request *Finding and Fixing Hidden Air Leaks* and a publications list.

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