

CONSERVING ENERGY IN MOBILE HOMES

The money you spend to warm your home in winter and cool it in summer could be going right out the window....through your roof, walls, doors or floors. Here are some things you can do to manage your energy costs by keeping the cooling and heating inside.

INSULATION

If your mobile home is not fully insulated, insulation is one of the most cost-effective steps you can take to manage your energy costs and make your home more comfortable.

STOP THOSE AIR LEAKS

A lot of money may be leaking out of doors, windows, heating and cooling ducts, and other openings in the form of escaping cold or warm air. Here are some inexpensive remedies:

- Take time to caulk all cracks, no matter how small, around the molding, joints, doors and window frames, top and bottom seams, skirts, under the floor, where siding meets- you see an opening air could leak through. Use a caulking compound and a caulking gun. It's an easy, inexpensive and effective way to save energy.
- Don't forget to seal pipe and hose connections, telephone wires, around dryer vents, sink and bathtub drains as they exit the home, electrical outlets and rivet holes. Loose screws should also be tightened. The electrical outlets can be sealed with inexpensive, insulated gaskets that fit under the cover plate. Turn off the electricity, remove the plastic cover plates with a screwdriver, insert the insulated gaskets, reattach the plates, and turn the electricity back on. Outlet and switch gaskets are available in most hardware and discount stores.
- Weatherstrip all doors and windows to seal leaks and eliminate drafts. Install an inexpensive door door the bottom of outside doors. A 4" gap under an outside door lets as much cold air in and out as a 9-square-inch hole in the wall.
- Seal leaks in heating and cooling ducts by wrapping with a 3-inch foil-backed insulation and sealing with duct tape. It is most important to seal the cracks between each section of ducting with flexible caulk before you add the insulation. Hidden air leaks coming from these cracks can limit the effectiveness of the insulation. Be sure the duct tape seals all the cracks between each section of insulation.
- Cover window air conditioning units with a tight-fitting cover during winter months.

ENERGY SAVING HABITS

- Never block air registers or return air outlets used by your central heating and cooling system with drapes or carpet.
- Dirty filters increase energy use. Check furnace and air conditioning filters.
- Usage for heating can increase up to 3 percent for each degree the temperature is increased. During unoccupied hours or at night, lower the thermostat setting to 65 degrees or less.

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