

How to: Winterize your Home for a Cozier Winter

We survived the first really cold snap of the winter but and there are sure to be more cold days ahead

Here are a few inexpensive ideas that we have gathered that really work. Keep warm and keep safe.

Under the door draft stopper from http://lifehacker.com/



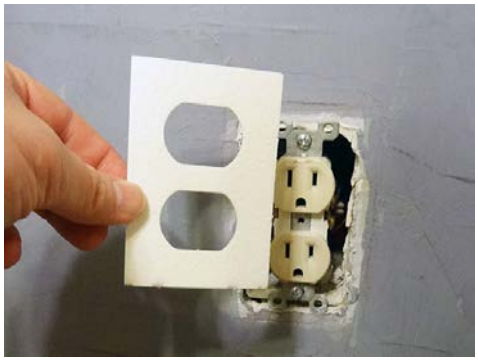
The space under a door is kind of necessary if you want to open it, but it's a fairly obvious way for heat to escape one room and float into unheated areas where it isn't necessary.
Draft dodgers are the slightly pun-ish name for cloth or insulation stoppers that fit the space under a door, but still allow the door to open with relative ease. The Cool Tools blog points to a neat "Twin Draft Stopper" that runs about $10, is easily adjustable for most any door, and is machine-washable, to boot.

Change your Furnace filters monthly



by changing your forced air furnace filters monthly through this winter your furnace will be able to push more warm air into the room. The US department of energy says this tip will increase efficiency 5%-10%.

Filters are pretty inexpensive and easy to change. The size is printed on the frame of the filter and the direction arrow points toward the way the air blows. Here is a how-to video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGYrVgFSzV4



This draft stopping tip is
from http://www.popularmechanics.com

Eliminate Drafts Around Electrical Boxes
Electrical boxes in your exterior walls are notoriously drafty because insulation isn't always placed behind and around them correctly. "You want to try to stop air from flowing around the box and through the box," Rogers says.

To stop the leaks, remove the cover plates and fill small gaps around the boxes with acrylic latex caulk. For large gaps, use foam sealant. Then place a foam gasket over the outlet or switch and replace the cover plate. The gaskets cost about $1.10 for a two-pack. "The gasket is going to save you money for as long as that outlet is in your house," Rogers says. "That small investment pays off for as long as you own your home."

From http://www.builditsolar.com

Bubble wrap window insulation
Installation



- Cut the bubble wrap to the size of the window pane with scissors.
- Spray a film of water on the window using a spray bottle.
- Apply the bubble wrap while the window is still wet and press it into place.
- The bubble side goes toward the glass.

- To remove the bubble wrap, just pull it off starting from a corner. You can save it and use it for several years. It does not leave a mess or stains on the window glass.

Some places to get bubble wrap:
- Check places that sell larger items like canoes or furniture -- bubble wrap is often used for packing these.
- Save up bubble wrap packing material that you and friends receive

There are also commercial window insulation kits at your local hardware store that are nearly invisible and easy to install.
In fact, there are entire aisles at the home improvement store with lots more ideas.

Stay warm