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Weather Stripping

The easiest and most cost effective way to fix leaks around doors and windows is with weather stripping.

- Comes in many sizes
- Adhesive backed foam works best for gaps around doors and windows
- For leaks around door and window trim, remove boarder trim ,and place foam cord in gap
- Most weather stripping cost \$5 to \$20

Low Flow Shower Head

A 10 minute shower can use up to 40 gallons of water.

- A low flow shower head maintains same pressure as a regular shower head but restricts the flow of water
- Uses less water
- Uses 2 to 4.5 gallons a minute instead of 4 to 6 gallons using a regular shower head
- Price is around \$30
- Reduces the amount of hot water needed, lowering your heating bills

Programmable Thermostat

You can save up to 10% on your heating bill by switching to a programmable thermostat.

- Automatically changes the temperature to the preset temperatures
- Price range from \$10 to \$100
- Will pay for itself in a matter of months

CFL Light Bulbs

Compact fluorescent lights, or CFL's use 20% to 30% of the energy that standard incandescent lights do and last 8 to 15 times as long.

- Using a CFL over a regular bulb saves you \$19 over the life of the bulb
- You don't have to replace them as often
- Switching out five bulbs could save you \$95

Energy Star Appliances

The average home can spend up to \$2200 on energy bills every year.

- Replacing the old appliances with Energy Star could save you \$75 a year
- Cost more but are 10% to 50% more efficient
- Look for the Energy Star symbol when buying appliances

Plastic for Window

You can temporarily improve the insulation value of your windows with plastic window stretch wrap.

- Acts like an extra pane of glass providing further insulation for your window
- Price range \$15 to \$30 for a window wrap kit
- Buy a bulk roll if you have a lot of windows to cover as it is cheaper

Low-Flow Toilet

Buying a low flow toilet is one of the best ways to lower your home's water usage.

- Regular toilet is 30% to 40% of water that is used in a house hold
- Low flow uses 6 liters per flush compared to the 13 liters a regular toilet uses
- A savings of nearly \$40 on water bill
- Can cost as little as \$50 or as much as \$300 depending on quality and style

Replace Door

Decorative wooden front doors are beautiful but may not have much insulation value.

- Steel or fiberglass doors fit better, filled with polyurethane foam core come with pre-hung door frame
- Can be pressed to look like a wooden door
- The price is from \$200 to \$400
- Has five time the insulation properties of a wooden door with the same dimensions
- Will keep heat in, improve comfort level and save you money

Replace Furnace

If you have an older furnace you might want to consider upgrading to a newer high efficiency model.

- Old furnace runs at 30% to 60% efficiency where as a new furnace runs 90% or higher
- Use 20% to 30% less energy to run
- Talk to certified heating contractor to insure it's the right fit for you home
- Look for the Energy Star symbol when purchasing

Tape Ducts

Ducts are often leaky wasting a fifth or more of heating and cooling energy used in your home

- Check if ducts have become disconnected and then reconnect them
- Check connections for leaks
- If there are leaks seal the joints with mastic or foil tape.
- Gaps that penetrate the floor or ceiling seal those ducts with spray foam

Electrical Plug Gaskets

Electrical outlets on the outer wall of a house can often be a hidden source of air leakage.

- Electrical gaskets are little foam pads that sit inside the outlets cover
- You can also use child safety plates to insure there will be no air leakage

Motion Detector Light Switches

Motion sensing light switches automatically turn on the light when there is movement within a room

- These light switches automatically turn on when someone is in the room
- Can be set to turn the lights off after 30 seconds to 30 minutes if there is no more movement.
- The price is around \$30 each
- It will save you money, time ,and act like a security device

Solar Motion Detector Outside Light

Installing a motion detecting light cuts down the time that the light is on and it reduces power usage.

- They offer security letting you know when someone is outside
- By buying a solar motion detector light it completely cuts power usage
- Solar lights work during a black out and brown out
- Price range \$30 to \$100
- They are more costly to buy. LED models ensure you would not have to replace the bulb for at least 10 years, saving you more money and time.

Ducts Cleaned

Cleaning your air ducts can improve air flow, increasing the efficiency of your forced air furnace. Dust, dirt, and debris accumulate in vents, slowing down air flow.

- Can improve air quality
- Cleaning your ducts will range from \$200 to \$600
- Clean your ducts every five years and change your air filter once a month.

Hot Water Tank Blanket

If your hot water tank is warm to the touch it's losing heat and you're losing money.

- Hot water blanket reduces heat loss by 20% to 40% and saves you up to 9% a year on heating water
- Cost ranges from \$10 to \$30
- Also consider using a rigid foam board below your tank to help insulate it from the floor, reduces heat loss by another 9%

Use Power Bar

'Phantom Drain' is a sneaky way that electronics continue to use energy even when turned off.

- Unplug electronics when not using them as they continue to use energy even when turned off
- If you have lots plugged into the power bar just turn it off or unplug it
- If this is inconvenient consider buying a smart strip power bar
- Using a smart bar for your computer can save you \$25 a year on your electricity bill
- Using a smart bar for things like a TV with an entertainment set up can save you up to \$40 a year

Dual Flush Toilet Kit

Select A Flush is a dual flush toilet kit and a water conservation device for standard toilets.

- Dual flush toilet kit , it gives you the option of how much water you will flush
- This kit is for standard toilets
- Runs between \$20 and \$50
- This feature has the possibility of saving you another two thirds of the water that a toilet uses

Use Cold Water for Laundry

Washing your clothes in cold water is an easy and free adjustment that can save you money.

- 90% of energy used by the washing machine is used to heat water
- Washing three loads of laundry in cold water can save you up to \$27 per year on electricity
- Always wash full loads
- Washing clothes in cold water also keeps your clothes from shrinking or losing color

Fix Water Leak

Check pipes and taps for leaks. Having a leak in a tap is a very easy fix

- A leaky tap that drips every second uses over 3,300litres costing you \$3.59
- Often a leaky tap is caused by a worn out washer
- Can replace with a new one which will only cost from 10 to 50 cents

Replace Windows

Drafty single paned or old windows are often a big reason for heat loss in a home.

- Properly sealed windows will save you heat in the winter and keep your home cool in the summer
- Energy efficient windows will reduce heat loss by 50%
- Switch to double pane windows with argon gas between the panes which serve as a insulating air block
- Look for windows with a higher U value
- Provides better sound proofing
- Just by replacing one or two windows in your home you will notice a improvement in your heating bill

Upgrade Installation

A healthy house today is well sealed, well insulated, and properly ventilated. A well insulated house is a bit like dressing for the weather

- Under the siding or brick there are air barriers that keep the wind from blowing through
- Then there is the insulation and a vapor barrier which keeps the moisture away from the house structure where it could damage
- A well insulated attic can reduce energy use 20 to 60% all year round
- Insulate and seal your attics hatch as well

Replace Water Heater

Heating hot water is the second largest consumer of household energy, coming in just under heating and cooling the house. The high cost of heating water comes from the fact that it must constantly keep a large tank of water heated throughout the day, whether you're using it or not

- Replace with a Energy Star heat pump water heater

- Hot water on demand is when you turn on the tap it senses the flow of water then turns on its multiple burners instantly heating the incoming water
- 30% more efficient and will save you \$100 per year
- Less than half the size of a regular water heater
- Savings of almost \$300 a year on their electric bills
- Pays for itself in three years
- A heat pump needs to be in a room that will stay 4° to 32° C year long since it draws its heat from around it.

Recycle Household Materials

Following the three “R's” can save you money and it will save the environment, by reducing the amount of household garbage you throw out.

- Plastic, paper, cardboard, and tin cans can be recycled at the Dawson Creek recycling center
- Also pop cans, bottles, juice boxes and beer and liquor bottles can be returned for a refund on the deposit

Auto Timer Lights

Auto timer lights can be programmed to turn on and off at set times during the day. They can be programmed so that they turn on just before you get home.

- They can be programmed to turn on when you get home or to turn off when you leave
- The price is \$20 to \$50 depending on type of sockets and whether it is digital
- A single incandescent light bulb left on all the time can cost you \$215.35 a year

Fix Foundation

Check your foundations for cracks.

- A foundation crack will widen over time which results in water seepage or possibly the loss of structural integrity
- Cracks may hinder the value of your home
- You can fix poured foundation cracks by injecting epoxy or polyurethane foam material
- For the repair of concrete floor cracks certain epoxies and polyurethane exists suitable for slab repairs

Furnace Filter

Replacing filters at least once a month can improve your furnace's efficiency.

- Relieves allergy symptoms and helps furnace efficiency
- When filters are dirty the furnace must work harder
- A furnace that does not work efficiently will cost you more in energy bills
- There are some filters that are washable

Move Furniture From Over Ducts

Do not block returns as this will decrease your unit's efficiency and possibly damage your equipment.

- Move furniture that is blocking vents
- Use deflectors to get the air where you want it to go.
- Saves you money because heat is not being wasted

LED Christmas Lights

LED (Light Emitting Diode)

- LED Christmas lights last ten times longer
- Use 95% less energy
- A 50 bulb regular lights use 250 watts and a 70 LED lights only use 3 watts
- Give off no heat
- Do not connect conventional lights to new LED lights it will reduce the life of the LED and may cause a fire
- Check rating for outdoor or indoor use

Rain Barrel for Gardening

Watering the lawn and plants accounts for 40% of water usage in a household

- Using a rain barrel can save you money on your water bill, prevent run-off water erosion damage, and keep plants watered during dry periods
- You can collect and hold the water or you can use it to irrigate your garden and lawn
- A rain barrel kit will cost anywhere from \$10 to \$90 and barrels can be purchased from surplus stores

Reseal Ceiling and Roof

All roofs need repair or replacement from time to time. Regular maintenance such as cleaning eaves-troughs and drains can help prolong the life of your roof.

- Shingles need clear glaze waterproof sealants to properly protect shape and angles of shingles
- If you have a few broken shingles you don't have to replace the whole roof
- The age and the extent of the problem will help you know if you need to fix the roof or replace it

Replace Bathroom Fan

A bathroom is a closed and moist place. Exhaust fans are used in most of the bathrooms to control moisture and provide proper ventilation.

- Bathroom needs a fan to extract moist and stale air
- Extractors and exhaust fans extract the air and circulate it in two ways
- Usually you only need to replace the motor of the exhaust fan

Sweep for Door Bottom

Door sweeps are the small pieces of rubber or vinyl at the bottom of your door that effectively cover the gap where the door meets the bottom of the frame. This area is almost always built with a gap to allow the door to open and close smoothly.

- Acts as a layer on insulation
- Prevents heat transfer or heat loss through air movement
- Works better with screen or storm door

Update Electricity

Many older houses have significant problems when it comes to the electrical system that they have. Here are a few things to consider about updating your home electrical network.

- Outdated electrical systems may cause fires or other problems

- Only a licensed and experienced electrician should perform major electrical projects such as upgrading and rewiring of your home
- Drywall and installation may need to be removed
- Cost between \$1200 to \$1800

Taping Ducts

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Aerator for Taps

An easy way to save water and money is to install aerators on your taps. An aerator restricts the flow of water then mixes air into the flow of water in order to keep the pressure up.

- Reduces the amount of water used by 50% and you can save \$28 a year in hot water costs
- The attachment cost is around \$15 so it will pay for itself within a year

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