

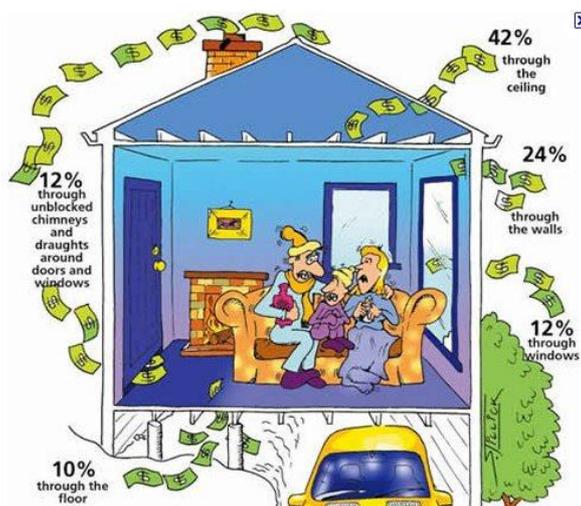
# Winter Warming Your Home

By Danielle King



With winter on the doorstep its worth while taking some time to prepare your home so that you can stay comfortable in a more cost and energy efficient way.

Here's some tips that could help you keep some of those bills in check.



1. **Seal the gaps.** Take a look around all your external windows and doors and seal up any gaps. Where you have exhaust fans in bathrooms, consider using a draft stopper cover (these retrofit easily in the ceiling space). Close the dampers in fire places when not in use. You can loose up to 25% of the heat in your home through gaps.
2. **Let the sun in.** On those winter days when there is some sun, open the window coverings and let it shine in. Did you know that for every 1 square meter of glass the sun directly hits, you'll get up to 35% heat radiated out from it. That's equivalent to a 1 bar electric heater per square meter and it's free!
3. **Insulate your roof** (if not already done), you can loose up to 40% of your homes heat through the ceiling (especially if you have downlights). Get a professional to do it properly and use a non-toxic insulation.
4. **Manage the windows.** We can't all afford double glazing but there are products around that can be retro fitted and provide good insulation. Alternatively you could use heavy backed, well-fitting curtains with pelmets, roman blinds or honeycomb blinds to create that insulating barrier over windows. As soon as the sun is off the glass, close the coverings to reduce heat loss from the home.
5. **Heating systems** – have them serviced every one or two years and only turn them on when and where you need it. If your heater is zoned, only heat those areas you're actually in.
6. **Drop the temperature.** Instead of having the temperature set at 22 degrees C, set it to 19 or 20 degrees. It will still be warm, and for every 1 degree you save cooling, you could save up to 10% of the cost. It costs nothing to put on a jumper!

Implementing some of the above will help you to keep warm and reduce your bills over the winter months. If you would like to know more about making your home more efficient, contact Green Moves at [www.greenmoves.com.au](http://www.greenmoves.com.au)