

# Wrap your hot water heater in a fiberglass blanket

Your second biggest energy bill this fall and winter will probably be for supplying hot water to your household.

You could save a lot of money by taking cold showers all winter, but there are other less drastic steps which can re-

duce the bite that water heating takes out of your budget.

In the average home, the hot-water heater consumes 20 percent of the total energy cost. It takes more than twice the energy spent on lighting, cooking and running appliances, and

is only second to house heating, which accounts for 70 percent of the total.

### Lower thermostat

Turn down the thermostat—that's the simplest and most effective way to save money on your hot-water tank, according

to "Energy Saving Projects for the Home," from Ortho books.

Very few households require water temperatures above 120°F., and 110°F. is satisfactory for most hot water uses.

Lowering the thermostat on your water heater also means that less heat from the tank will be lost to the cooler air surrounding it.

Another way to save money on your water heating is by insulating your tank. All hot-water tanks have some internal insulation, but by covering the exterior you can increase the tank's ability to retain valuable, expensive heat.

If your hot-water tank feels

warm when you touch the sides, especially if your tank is in an unheated basement or on an open porch, insulation is a must-do project.

To insulate your hot-water tank, take a single 3 1/4-inch roll of R-11 fiberglass blanket and wrap it around the tank for measurement. After making the appropriate marks, remove the blanket and trim it to size.

Before positioning and sealing the insulation with duct tape, however, the Ortho book suggests that you remember the following:

- Do not block the pilot light or access to controls of any gas heater.

- Do not cover the top of a gas heater or put insulation anywhere near the burner.

- If you don't expect to use the hot water for a long period of time, make sure your gas or oil heater has a pressure release valve. Otherwise, the additional insulation may make the water overheat.

- Make a note of your serial number in case you need to get a part for your particular model.

Once your hot-water tank is insulated, you will find that, in one or two seasons, the money you save on water heating will more than pay for your initial investment of about \$20 for fiberglass and duct tape.

**How to Insulate a Water Tank**

For electric heater add enough to attach the top

Circumference

Height

Duct tape on seams and edges

Cut-outs for controls

Top for electric heater only

1. Measure your hot-water tank
2. Measure a piece of insulation by placing it around the tank. Then remove it and trim accordingly.
3. Rewrap the insulation around the tank.
4. Seal the joint with duct tape. Keep the insulation away from the pilot light, if there is one.

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## Fall for the richness of red!

This fall, why not treat yourself to a room fit for a king. Expensive you say? Well, grab your paint brush and prepare for palace living! Painting your home in the majestic colors of the red family can make you feel like royalty.

In the room pictured, the walls are painted a delicate pink and the ceiling a neutral straw color. A dramatic contrast to the soft wall color is created with a dark burgundy on the door and window frames, mantle and molding.

The National Paint and Coatings Association suggests a flat paint for the walls and a semi-gloss paint to bring a rich-looking shine to the darker colored trim.

Floral prints used on a chair,

sofa, bedspread and curtains add coziness and charm to the room. The warm wall colors enhance the romantic style of the floral fabrics.

Don't be afraid to mix and match fabrics; choose a print that picks up the light pink wall color for the bedspread and fabric with a deep maroon background for the sofa and tablecloth.

Walls painted in a color from the red family enhance the appearance of dark, highly polished woods such as oak, birch and mahogany. Stick to one type and color of wood for your furnishings to prevent a cluttered and "busy" appearance.

Choose accessories that shine! Brass, silver and glass flower pots and candlesticks, or your own eclectic assortment of

ornaments will add bright, personal touches to your new room. Brass doorknobs and window fixtures are an elegant touch.

### THE CASE OF WINDOWS, OPEN AND SHUT

No matter what the architectural style of your home, there are appropriately designed wood windows to go with it. Traditional double-hungs, bows and bays and contemporary casements, sliders and fixed-sash picture windows are examples.

All are available in stock sizes at local home centers or building supply stores. Because modern wood windows are factory-made, they fit snugly and are easy to install.

## Smoke detectors:

More and more homeowners consider smoke detectors basic fire insurance: they're inexpensive, offer round-the-clock protection and save lives. But they're not a cure-all.

Americans have purchased more than \$5 million detectors since 1977 and, according to the U.S. Fire Data Center, more than half of all homes are now equipped with them. But the drop in death and injury rates from fire has only been modest.

There is increasing evidence that detectors aren't as effective as they could be. Not that smoke detectors don't work, or aren't an important part of a home fire safety plan. In fact, people may count on them too heavily and assume that detectors automatically make them immune from the dangers of fire. That can be a fatal mistake.

Detectors are effective only when used as part of a comprehensive plan to fight fire. These suggestions are offered as part of a national Burger King® Fire Safety Program to help improve your chances of safely escaping from a fire:

- Install detectors in each sleeping area and at the head of the basement stairs. Locate the alarm nearer to adults than children, since children tend to be deeper sleepers.

- Regularly check that the detector is working properly. Test the battery once a week and make sure the smoke chamber is clear of dust.

- Practice fire drills at least twice a year and become familiar with the warning signal of the detector. Plan at least two escape routes from each room and establish a meeting place a safe distance from the home.

- Realize the limitations of a smoke detector and do everything to eliminate dangerous conditions around the house that might cause a fire.

October is National Fire Prevention Month, and is a good time to make your home fire safe. Installing smoke detectors as part of an overall fire safety program is one of the biggest home improvements you can make this fall.

This national fire safety program is brought to you as a public service by Burger King® restaurants. Contact your local restaurant manager to learn more on how you can make your home and family safe from fire.

## basic fire insurance

# Home Insurance Explained



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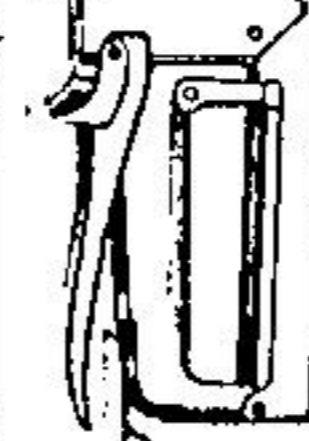
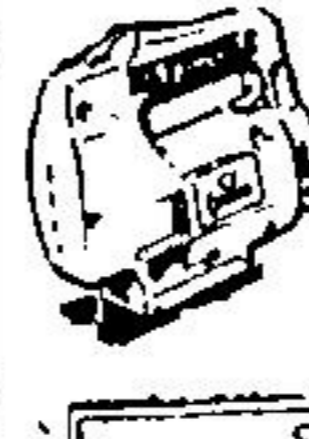
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