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ENERGY David Foster

Controlling energy costs in your home

This year the cost of heating a home with oil will be about 30% more than during the last heating season. Electricity and natural gas have also increased in price, although not as significantly as heating oil.

For the average homeowner who paid \$800 to heat his home with oil last year, this year's fuel bill will go up an extra \$240. And fuel prices will continue to rise substantially for at least the next four years, more than doubling by 1985. Doesn't sound too exciting, does it?

For most homes the maximum energy saving can be obtained by following this sequence of actions:

I. Reduce the amount of air that leaks into and out of your home.

Air leaking through the wally and ceiling of your home can account for as much as 40% of your yearly heating costs. Most homes are not well scaled, par-ticularly around windows and

Solving air leakage problems is relatively easy and inexpensive. Caulking and weatherstripping are available at a reasonable cost and can be installed by most homeowners. Your local hardware store can supply you with these materials and provide pointers on their use and application.

If you are considering adding insulation to your home, sealing air leaks is an important first

2. Add insulation where required and where the existing

house structure permits.

If your house is more than 20 years old it almost certainly needs additional insulation. The most common insulation applications are in attics, on basement walls, under unheated floor areas, and in exterior walk. The amount of insulation that makes sense will depend on the climate in your

Many insulation jobs can be done by the homeowner, expecially the addition of blankettype insulating in attics and
rigid insulation to basement
walls. Adding insulation to exterior walls will require specialtype degrapment and is best done
by an insulation contractor.

There are a few things to remember. Always add a vancor

member. Always add a vapour barrier, such as 6 mil polythene sheeting on the WARM side of the insulation to present con-densation within the walls. If you add insulation to your attic you may require additional venting in the caves or gables of your roof, also to prevent condensation.

Upgrade and maintain your furnace system to ensure maxi-

num fuel economy.

A furnace requires regular maintenance to operate elliciently, particularly if it runs on

All furnaces should have an annual cleaning and an effi-Throughout the winter it is insportant to keep the air filters clean.

For older furnaces you should discuss with the serviceman the practiculity of upgrading your furnace's efficiency by replacing any worn or outdated compenents.

4. Substitute other fuels in place of oil.

Because oil is an expensive heating fuel you may be able to save money by using other energy sources in place of oil. The types of energy sources available in your area will determine your alternatives. Natural gas, electricity and wood are all practical alternatives depending on their local price.

