



My Go-2-Guy Handyman Services

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6 Ways to Save on Your Heating and Cooling

1) "DON'T TOUCH THE THERMOSTAT!" It's the mantra of dads worldwide and there may be something to it. By maintaining a steady air temperature and changing your body temperature by putting on a sweater, you'll be saving money. For every degree you lower your heat in the 60 – 70 degree range, you can save up to 5% on heating costs. Which will soon disappear when the Ontario government raises rates again...

2) If you haven't programmed your thermostat you could be spending up to \$200 more than you need too, according to some experts. Now if you can find the instruction for your thermostat and can figure out how to do that, great! But if like most people we talk to, you can't find them or figure out it's programming feature you may want to install a learning or smart thermostat.

After a few days the thermostat learns your patterns, and will set itself to accommodate your needs. If that's not smart enough, a learning thermostat senses when no one is in the house and will not heat or cool while you're gone. It also learns how long it takes to heat or cool your home and will show you how long to reach your desired temperature. It can even find ways to help you lower your energy bill. All this adds up to more money in your pocket instead of just blowing out the windows. As an added bonus, many of these thermostats are a part of a government rebate program, which will get you up to \$100 back.

3) Installing plastic film over your windows is an extremely affordable do-it-yourself project. Cutting down on the drafts from leaky windows can save you around 14% on your monthly bill, and all you'll need is the film kit from home depot and a hair dryer.

4) Another source of drafts are your exterior doors. A simple door sweep will keep the heat in and cold out, while likely costing you less than \$20 at any hardware store. A bonus feature to this low cost addition or repair is it does the opposite in the summer allowing your home to stay cooler.

If you're looking to get even more energy efficient a Door Draft Stopper is another option. A Door Draft Stopper is a long tube made of fabric filled with whatever works, we've seen kitty litter, sand, old nylons and some even come pre filled. A word to the wise, if you do purchase one of these, purchase one that Velcro's or sticks magnetically to the door, this way you won't have to constantly place it back against the door every time it is opened. Note: Door Draft Stoppers are to be used in conjunction with a door sweep.

5) We've all been in that waiting room where the temperature is -15 Celsius outside, but the sun beating into the room makes it feel like summer. Well it's time for that to save you money. Open the shades on the west- and south-facing windows. This will allow sunlight in during the day, heating your home and in Erik's case giving his dog a warm place to nap. Conversely, closing these shades during summer day will lower your cooling bill.

6) This next one is probably the most effort to do but makes a surprisingly large difference. Make sure that you don't have furniture blocking or in front of your heating vents. If you have a bed or sofa in front of a vent, your HVAC will work harder than necessary to maintain your rooms desired temperature, as the air will not circulate as intended. This tip will also lower your cooling bill in the summer.

