



## Are You Ready for Cold Weather?

Call (256) 532-8342

to request pilot lighting service  
for your natural gas heating system.

**Winter Energy-Saving Tips Inside!**

# Prepare Your Gas Heating System for Winter

Huntsville Utilities recommends an annual inspection by a professional heating appliance service provider to ensure safe, efficient operation of your system. This check should include:

- ❖ Install clean filters
- ❖ Oil fan motor and check drive belts
- ❖ Clean rust and dirt from burners
- ❖ Inspect vents and insure all vents are properly connected
- ❖ Inspect all air intakes or outlets and insure they are open and unobstructed
- ❖ If you home is equipped with a carbon monoxide detector, ensure that it is in good working order.

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To request pilot lighting by Huntsville Utilities call (256) 532-8342, Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Call early to avoid delays. Once cold weather arrives, there may be a 2 to 3-day wait for the pilot lighting service due to the large number of requests. Huntsville Utilities will only light pilots and does not service or repair appliances. A service charge may apply.

# Save Energy and \$\$\$\$ Using These Winter Efficiency Tips

**Check Your Attic Insulation:** In most homes, one of the most significant areas of heat loss is through the ceiling. Make sure your attic has a level blanket of insulation that completely covers the ceiling joists. Insulation levels are measured in R-values and Huntsville Utilities recommends a minimum level of R-25 and an optimum level of R-38. Attic access openings and pull-down stairs located inside the structure should also be insulated and weather-stripped.

**Seal Your Windows:** Check the outside edges of your windows for air gaps. If cracks exist, re-caulking is one of the most cost effective measures you can take. Storm windows are very cost effective if applied over single pane glass, especially if a vinyl gasket is used. If your windows are in disrepair, clear plastic can be applied as a temporary measure on the window interior to seal against air infiltration. Window seals kits using a hair dryer to shrink the plastic until clear are available in common building supply stores.

**Seal Your Doors:** The best way to seal an exterior door is with jamb-up weather-stripping and a threshold. A rolled up towel at the bottom of the door will suffice as a temporary measure.

**Wrap Your Water Heater:** Most electric water heaters cost more to operate than natural gas but a little less than propane. Newer water heaters may have internal foam insulation and do not need a wrap but in many cases water heater jackets, duct wrap, or fiberglass batts can be a cost effective way to save energy. NOTE: Be careful when insulating a gas water heater so as not to interfere with ventilation at the top or the flame at the bottom. Water heater jackets can be used effectively to save energy for tanks located both inside and outside the heated space.

**Wrap Your Hot Water Pipes:** Foam tubes make for very easy and effective pipe insulation and can be purchased at most building supply stores.

**Zone Heat:** In very cold weather, zone heating can help keep your bill low but should not be used on a consistent basis due to possible mold problems. Close the doors and vents to the rooms that you are not frequently using and heat only the most important rooms in the house. You can do this if you have gas heat or an electric furnace but do not try it with a heat pump or an air conditioner since it may cause damage to the compressor. Also, try not to zone off the area in which the thermostat is located.

**Open and Close Your Curtains:** Open the curtains on the south side of your house during the day. The sun sinks approximately 30 degrees to the south in the winter and will provide a significant heating effect during the day. Close all other curtains both day and night to reduce heat loss.

**These and additional tips can be found at [www.hsvutil.org](http://www.hsvutil.org) as well as TVA's EnergyRight web page at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).**

