

COLUMBUS[®] CURRENTS

Keep Pets and Energy Bills Comfortable

By Anne Prince

I don't know about you, but I consider my four-legged companions' part of the family. I can't imagine life without my pets. I know others feel this way, too. That's why during the winter months, we make sure our *whole* family, including our four-legged members, is cozy—without taking a big “bite” out of our budget.

This month, I'd like to share a few simple ways you can make your home more comfortable this winter, which can ultimately help you save on energy bills.

At the onset of the cold weather season, we replace the HVAC filter for better air quality and to help the unit operate more efficiently. You can also keep your home cozier by caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors. If your home is particularly chilly, you can tape or affix heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against the cold. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

We know winter can be “ruff”, so we set our thermostat at 68 degrees, a “purr-fect” temperature for people and pets. This is especially important for smaller, short hair and senior dogs—not just for warmth, but for their general health. Puppies, kittens and older pets with arthritis or other ailments may have a harder time controlling their body heat and need the additional warmth when it's chilly out.

Pets that sleep close to the floor can be subject to cold drafts that enter your home through windows and exterior doors. If your pet's bed is near a window or door that feels drafty, tightly roll up a towel and place it near the bottom of the door or window to eliminate the

draft. Cutting down on cold drafts helps *everyone* feel more comfortable during colder months.

If possible, elevate your pet's bed so it's not placed directly on a cold floor. An old chair or sofa cushion works well. If you don't use a dog bed, take some old blankets and create a donut shape on the cushion so the dog can snuggle and “nest” within the blanket. You can do the same for cats but on a smaller scale. Blankets enable pets to nestle into them, even when they aren't tired, and provide a comfortable place for dogs and cats to curl up.

During the day, open your blinds and curtains to allow sunlight to warm your home. Close window coverings at night for an added layer of insulation.

At Columbus Electric Cooperative, we want to help you save energy and money. You can monitor your usage through our SmartHub app or visit our website at columbusco-op.org for additional energy-saving tips.

We can't control the weather, but we can provide advice to help you save energy and keep your family and furry friends more comfortable during the winter season.



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TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.



Board Highlights

The Board heard from Greg Gilbert, of Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert, & Moss, who presented the 2022 Audit Report ending July 31, 2022. There were no findings in the audit and Mr. Gilbert reported that the Cooperative was in good financial condition and in compliance with lender requirements. The Board reviewed and approved the audit as well as all other financial and operational reports presented.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Our office will be closed November 24th and 25th in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday! May your home be filled with happiness and love.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

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