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2009 Winter Newsletter

All Systems Inc. is a family owned and operated heating and air conditioning company located in Cumming Ga. Here at All Systems, we are committed to our superior HVAC services, as well as our continued efforts in providing excellent customer service in dealing with our customer's individual needs.

Please feel free to call us at any time, day or night, should you have any heating and air needs, questions, concerns or problems that we may help you with. We also invite you to use our coupon below for 10% off your first service call!

Sincerely,

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**LOWERING YOUR ENERGY COSTS**



## ***13 Tips on Lowering Your Home Heating Bill***

- 1.) Invest in a programmable thermostat that can be set to automatically turn down heat at designated times; i.e., at night, or when you're not at home.**
- 2.) Caulking and weather-stripping are relatively inexpensive and can save 5 to 30% on heating bills. Check for drafts, cracks and gaps. Some areas where cool air can penetrate: window frames, around doors, wall or window-mounted air conditioners, attic hatches, baseboards, switch plates, electrical outlets, and foundations (For a great guide to locating air leaks, go to U.S. Department of Energy website [www.eere.energy.gov](http://www.eere.energy.gov), and click on "consumers," then "energy audits," and finally, "Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Audit."). In general, you'll want to weather-strip between moving parts, like doors and their frames; and caulk between nonmoving parts, like window frames and walls.**
- 3.) Be sure to have adequate insulation in walls, ceilings, attics and basements. Seal and insulate water pipes and warm air ducts in unheated spaces (For more information on insulation, go to the same Department of Energy website, but click on "Insulation & Air Sealing" after you click on "consumers.").**
- 4.) Set your thermostat at a lower overall temperature, and use space heaters for one or a few frequently-used rooms. Heaters can start fires, so be sure to keep them at least three feet from combustible items and turn off before leaving a room or going to sleep. Supervise children and pets when using heaters.**
- 5.) In areas with colder climates, replace drafty single-pane windows, doors and skylights with products designed for these climates, such as thermal and storm windows and doors.**
- 6.) When it's time to replace that old furnace, replace it with a fuel-efficient model. When selecting a new furnace, look for ones that have earned the Energy Star. These burners meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and U.S. Department of Energy, and use about 10% less energy than a standard burner.**
- 7.) If you do not have a service contract, pay to have your furnace inspected and tuned on an annual basis. The savings in heating costs far exceed the**

service cost.

- 8.) Replace your furnace's air filter according to manufacturer's directions and your system will operate more efficiently; usually about once every one to three months.
- 9.) A "draftstopper" effectively seals your fireplace from any heat loss, even more so than a closed damper. A draftstopper is an inflatable "pillow" that you insert into the flue, and its design allows for easy removal and reinsertion. A glass front or glass screen will also reduce fireplace heat loss.
- 10.) Add a dryer vent seal to your clothes dryer vent opening, where heated air commonly pours out all winter long. Typical sheet metal flappers do not effectively seal against air leakage. A dryer vent seal stays closed unless the dryer is in use.
- 11.) Consider using an electric blanket in a cool bedroom; it's much less expensive than heating your bedroom to a toasty temperature.
- 12.) Install a low-flow shower head; it will use up to 50% less hot water.
- 13.) Cover your water heater with an insulating jacket.

## DID YOU KNOW??? THE EIA'S WINTER OUTLOOK REPORT



U.S. consumers got good news in October: Winter heating bills will drop an average of 8% nationwide from last year given cheaper fuel prices and expectations for milder weather.

The **Energy Information Administration**, the forecasting arm of the Energy Department, said the average household will save \$84 on heating bills this winter and pay \$960 for the season, which runs through March.

Winter heating expenses are forecast to be \$105 lower for natural gas, \$40 less for heating oil, \$280 less for propane and \$20 less for electricity, the EIA said in its annual winter outlook.

Heating bills have risen almost every year for the past decade, with a few exceptions, says Phil Flynn, energy analyst at trading and research firm PFGBest. Average home heating costs increased by 24% from the winter of 2004-05 to last year, EIA data show. An 8% drop, with bigger dips for some households, is a "big boost to consumers," Flynn says. Given huge inventories, heating costs - especially for natural gas - may drop for several years, he adds. Natural gas heats 52% of U.S. homes. "A lot depends on how quickly the economy bounces back," Flynn says.

This year, households that use natural gas and propane will enjoy the biggest drops in expenses with Midwest households positioned to benefit the most. There, more than 70% of households rely on natural gas. Nationwide, household natural gas expenditures are projected to drop 12% from last year. But they'll go down 15% in the Midwest if warmer-weather forecasts pan out, the EIA says. The Midwest will also see a 21% drop in propane expenditures vs. 14% nationwide and 5% in the West. EIA

says. Northeast consumers will benefit the least, Flynn says, primarily because they rely heavily on heating oil. Its price is more closely tied to crude oil prices. Northeast households are expected to spend 3% less this year than last on heating oil, EIA says. Lower heating bills may put more disposable income in the wallets of some consumers or enable others to pay. Given the weak economy, some local agencies say record numbers of low-income people and seniors are applying for heating assistance, surpassing resources.

Even lower bills "can be tough to pay if your income has been cut by unemployment," says Mark Wolfe, executive director of the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association. Its spring survey found record numbers of households sacrificing such things as food and medical care to pay home energy bills.

'BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE'... ALL SYSTEMS KEEPS YOU WARM THIS WINTER!



With the coldest months in North Georgia approaching us, you can rely on All Systems for all of your heating needs. Day or night, All Systems is available, with trained, certified professional technicians on hand, to assist you with all of your needs. With 30 years of experience, All Systems is a family owned and operated company, and is *the* number one reliable source for HVAC needs in North Georgia. Call or Email us today! 770-886-9903 [www.asihvac.net](http://www.asihvac.net)

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on your next service call**

**SAVE 10%**