



# Are You Ready for Cold Weather?

Call (256) 532-8342  
to request  
pilot lighting  
service for your  
natural gas  
heating  
system.

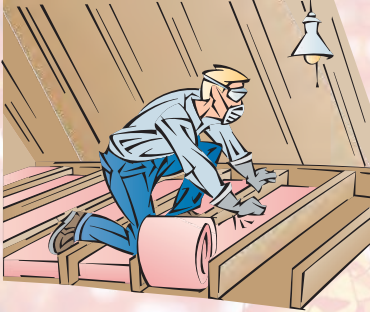
More tips  
on back.

## Winter Energy-Saving Tips Inside!

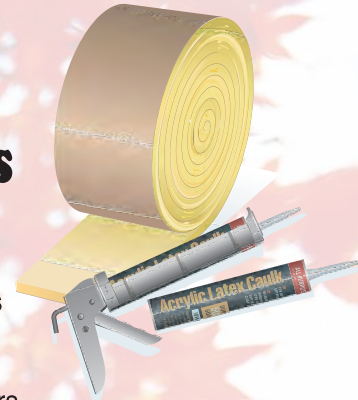
Downtown Huntsville, Courtesy of Johnny Miller Photography, Huntsville.

# Save Energy and \$\$\$\$

## Using These Winter Efficiency Tips

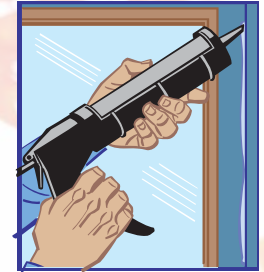


**Check Your Attic Insulation:** In most homes, one of the most significant areas of heat loss is through the ceiling. Make sure your attic has a level blanket of insulation that completely covers the ceiling joists. Insulation levels are measured in R-values and Huntsville Utilities recommends a minimum 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.



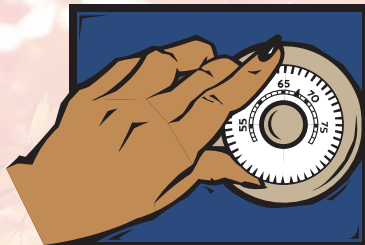
**Replacing Your Heating System? The Efficiency Program** is one way to ensure you install an energy efficient system. Using a contractor from the **Quality Contractor Network (QCN)**, Huntsville Utilities technicians inspect your new system to make sure it is energy efficient. Email [energy@hsvutil.org](mailto:energy@hsvutil.org) for a list of contractors.

**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 Exterior Doors:** If sunlight can be seen coming in from around the edges or from underneath the door, you should plan a trip to a building supply store for jamb-up weather-stripping and or a new threshold. These are very cost effective measures well worth your time and effort.

**Thermostat Setting:** Comfort levels relative to temperature are different for most people making a single recommended temperature setting impractical. Our suggestion during the winter months: Begin with a setting of 68°. If this temperature is too low, raise the setting two degrees at a time until you are comfortable. Each time you raise the setting, expect a 5% increase in heating costs (70° equals about 5% more, a setting of 74° will add approximately 15%.) With this energy tip in mind, sweaters and or blankets may prove to be one of your most cost-effective energy-saving measures.



These and additional tips can be found at [www.hsvutil.org](http://www.hsvutil.org), [www.energyright.com](http://www.energyright.com) and [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).



# 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 professional inspection 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.

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.

Huntsville Utilities is an equal opportunity residential utility service provider. We do not discriminate in the terms, conditions, or provision of services based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.

Huntsville Utilities es un proveedor de servicios residenciales públicos (electricidad, gas y agua) que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades. Nosotros no discriminamos en los términos, las condiciones, o las provisiones de nuestros servicios basados en la raza, religión, color, sexo, discapacidad, estado familiar u origen nacional.