

termine where the weak points are located. Some utility companies offer free audits. You can also check with your state energy office for insulation recommendations or go online at www.eere.energy.gov for all kinds of energy-efficient information.

Keep your heating equipment serviced and maintained regularly for top performance. If you need new equipment, purchase an energy-efficient model. It may cost more upfront, but you'll make up for that by paying less to the utility company.

Weatherizing your home is another way to save money on your heating. Sealing air leaks can prevent heat loss during winter. Most often, these leaks occur where two different building materials meet. Some of the most common areas include: narrow spaces around roof flashing, vents and pipes where air can travel, cracks in bricks or foundation walls, and gaps where the foundation wall meets the siding and around door frames. Two 1/8-inch gaps can let in as much cold air as a window left open 6-inch all winter. Imagine how much money that would cost you.

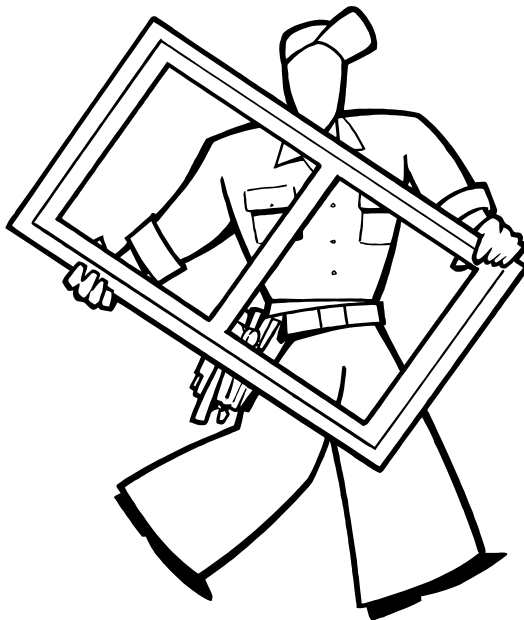
Inspect the exterior of your home carefully from different

angles to spot cracks and gaps. Then use caulking or weatherstripping to seal them.

Water heaters are the second-largest energy users in the home. Experts recommend insulating an older water heater or purchasing an energy-efficient model. Buying an energy-efficient water heater can be expensive, but in the long run, it will cost less to operate. Additionally, insulating hot water pipes with half-inch foam or pipe tape can save \$25 annually.

Properly planned lighting can affect energy use as well. Compact fluorescent light bulbs last three to four times longer and are more efficient than ordinary incandescent light bulbs, yet give off the same light. Avoid the long-life incandescent variety – they are the biggest energy burners. Use task lighting where needed and turn off the general lighting when unnecessary. Above all, don't leave lights burning when they're not being used.

Do your own energy audit this fall. Locate sources that leak cold air, keep your hot water heater and furnace tuned up, and use lighting wisely to keep those high utility bills at bay. ✨



Get up to \$150 Cash Back with Signature Series by Budget Blinds® Mail In Rebate!

Jeff & Susan Mahall

- \$150 Cash Back for an order \$1,000 or more
- \$75 Cash Back for an order of \$500 to \$999
- \$25 Cash Back for an order of \$250 to \$499

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY IN-HOME CONSULTATION

Each Franchise Independently Owned and Operated ©2006 Budget Blinds, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

401.338.6710
Thousands of Styles
www.budgetblinds.com/Coventry/

**VINYL SHINGLES
END PAINTING FOREVER**
(ASK FOR OUR LIST OF INSTALLATIONS)

APEX REMODELERS INC.
401-846-6292 OR 401-439-1930

No Paint, No Stains, No Hassels.
Cedar Discovery delivers strength, durability, the beauty of real wood - and endless design options.

Rebates up to \$1000 off siding job with this ad!