

Turning your
house into
your dream
home

Vol. 3, #3



5 inexpensive or free ways to save money while creating a "greener" lifestyle...

DOING IT RIGHT

With help from D4 Construction

Home Energy Use

Where and how you can save...

Over the next several months we are going to look at areas of the home where with some minor changes (and occasionally major changes) we can not only save money but do our part for conservation and 'greener living'.

We'll start with a brief overview of the things we can do—then in the months following we'll go into more detail.

Understanding your electrical bills—

Have you ever wondered exactly how your energy bill breaks down? What are your biggest energy eaters? What changes can you make to bring down your costs?

According to CREEDAC (Canadian Residential Energy End-use Data and Analysis Centre):

- ⇒ The largest portion of your bill goes to space heating— a whopping 58.5%
- ⇒ Lighting and appliances—16.1%
- ⇒ Water heating—14.4%
- ⇒ Air conditioning—6%
- ⇒ Refrigeration—5%

Knowing this it's easy to see that your first move in keeping your electrical

consumption down should be to look at your space heating.

Keeping it warm in winter and cool in summer—

⇒ Re-insulating the ceiling and possibly the outer walls can save as much as 30% on heating expenses—blown-in cellulose insulation is not only a “green” product but has a higher R-rating and outperforms many common insulation products

⇒ Repair leaks and damages all over your house – Make sure doorframes, windows, sills and joints don't let cold air enter the house – if you find any leaks use an appropriate sealant to seal them.

⇒ If you find leaks around exterior doors, garage doors or opening windows it's time to replace the weather stripping.

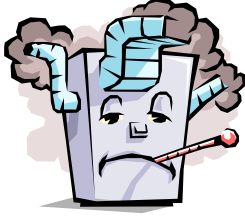
Cutting your electrical bills—

Making some changes inside and on the outside of your home can also make a difference in the size of your electrical bills:

⇒ Planting some deciduous—leafy—trees around the house will help cool down the area during the summer— saving you on A/C bills

⇒ Next time you re-shingle your roof consider using light colored roof shingles to help keep temperatures down in the attic

Doing it Right



*Perform
regular main-
tenance
checks on
your fur-
nace ...*

- ⇒ If you have painted siding pick on light colors to help deflect the heat
- ⇒ Sealing all the leaks around your home will ensure that heated or cooled air stays inside.
- ⇒ Make sure your windows are all double-paned at the minimum—use a plastic coating during winter for any windows that need extra insulation
- ⇒ Perform regular maintenance checks on your furnace to keep it running efficiently. A clean air filter will ensure you get efficient air recycling of dust-free, clean air.
- ⇒ Leaking ducts will make your heating system work 30% more, increasing your power usage
- ⇒ Turn off the heat in unused rooms and shut their doors. If you're worried about the room freezing, leave the heating vent open slightly
- ⇒ Close your curtains at night—it really does make a difference

A good reminder—

Though some of these tips make seem like no-brainers they are good reminders as more often than not our lives are so busy that simple tricks and techniques, like these, get forgotten.

Making changes, like the ones listed above, will impact not only your pocket book but the quality of all our futures.

Upcoming Topics

- ⇒ More Energy Saving Tips
- ⇒ Water Saving Tips
- ⇒ Efficient Heating and Cooling

For more information:

on how we can assist you with turning your house into your dream home while making it more energy efficient—or if you have any questions—call Mike Spruyt at 572-4812

The D₄ Guarantee



D₁ – Your job will be done for the price specified—there are no surprises or hidden costs.

D₂ – Your job will be completed the way you want it done.

D₃ – If you aren't satisfied with the finished product we'll fix it for free.

D₄– All work comes with a 2-year guarantee on workmanship