



GAIL & INGRID'S...
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
Monthly Tips & Timely Advice!

Is your home ready to keep you warm this winter?



The autumn weather is a reminder that even colder days lie ahead. Get ready for them by performing a few simple chores now that will keep you toasty all winter long.

Install Weatherstripping

Weatherstripping can save you up to 20 percent on heating bills — especially if you have drafty windows or doors. Plus, it's quick and easy, and doesn't cost a lot of money. Place weatherstripping along doorjamb and in the gaps between windows and sashes to keep chilly breezes out and heat in.

Fix Drafty Doors

If your doors need extra draft protection, add a door sweep along the bottom. These flexible rubber strips seal the gap at the bottom of the door to keep howling winds at bay. If cold air is still getting in, buy or DIY a door snake — a tube of fabric filled with sand, rice, or other material — to lay on the floor and plug the gap.

Add Insulation

The attic and basement are two spots where you can lose a lot of heat. By insulating your basement ceiling and attic floor, you can prevent warm air from escaping the house. Also check around the exterior of your house for cracked foundation, gaps or cable holes. Seal or fill them with spray foam insulation.

Check Your Furnace

Like any piece of machinery, your furnace works better if it's properly maintained. Some utility companies offer a free annual checkup for your furnace, but if yours doesn't, it may be worth paying a technician to ensure that your furnace is in top condition. You can also improve your furnace's performance with simple maintenance that you can do yourself, like replacing filters and cleaning registers.

Seal Ducts

If you have forced-air heat, leaks in your ducts could be costing you hundreds of dollars. Seal them with specially designed metal tape and keep your ducts — and your wallet — more secure.

Creating a family Newsletter for the Holidays:

Creating a newsletter that can accompany or replace your holiday cards is fun for the entire family. You can put your little reporters to work by contributing art, photographs, poetry, and interviews. Kids will learn the value of staying in touch with loved ones and get a chance to express themselves while putting together something truly unique. Older children can play the part of reporters (writing questions and conducting interviews) and layout designers (scanning pictures into the computer and working on the letter's design with a parent's help); younger kids can be photographers and artists. Once reporters have collected their information, arrange it into categories, such as news items about family sports activities or vacation. Let your family's story guide you. Use a scanner to include drawings, photos, and even handwritten stories by the children.



Ideas to include:

- 1) Items about the whole family can be placed in the letter's "highlights" section.
- 2) Did a new pet join the family this year?
- 3) Include a sports highlight section
- 4) A drawing of the family by a child
- 5) Boxes spotlight accomplishments of each child. Cover a variety of topics: academics, arts, and so on.
- 6) Loved ones will enjoy a recent family photo. No need for portraits; just use a recent snapshot of the whole group together.

Open House
 Saturday, December 5th 11am-2pm

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Happy Holidays

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