

NEWS



A NiSource Company

801 E. 86th Avenue
Merrillville, IN 46410

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nick Meyer, Manager
NIPSCO Communications
(219) 647-6556

IS YOUR HOME PREPARED FOR THE UPCOMING WINTER HEATING SEASON?

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – In an effort to help customers prepare for the winter season, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) offers customers some simple tips for using energy safely and wisely.

- **Schedule a furnace inspection.** Contact a registered heating contractor to inspect your furnace. Filter and cleaning upgrades could be completed now before nighttime temperatures turn colder. An inefficient furnace is more expensive to operate.
- **Take a Look at Your Ductwork.** Dust, lint and other debris can block air vents and reduce the efficiency of your furnace. Be sure to keep ducts and grills clean.
- **Close the Door.** If you're not using certain rooms in your home, close heat registers and radiator valves, as well as doors leading to those areas. Keep your garage door closed if you have an attached garage.
- **Draw the Drapes.** Close drapes and blinds when it gets dark outside. This will help cut heat loss through windows at night.
- **Insulate.** Make sure your home has a minimum of R-38 insulation in crawl spaces and attics. By adding insulation, your home will be warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.
- **Program It.** Install a programmable furnace thermostat that you can program to lower the thermostat automatically at night and raise the temperature when you are up and about during the day.
- **Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors.** Purchase and install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector, and replace old batteries with new batteries.

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Weatherization Tips

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- **Install or Seal Storm Windows and Doors.** Drafts entering your home around leaky windows and doors steal precious heat. Seal out the drafts with storm doors and windows. Replace missing caulking, worn weather-stripping or broken glass that lets cold air in.
- **Focus On The Fireplace.** Make sure the damper in your fireplace is tightly closed when you're not using the fireplace. Install glass doors on your fireplace – they can prevent valuable heat from being sucked up by the chimney.
- **Replace mail slots with external mailboxes.** Older homes often have mail slots – a slit in the door or wall of a house or apartment – where mail can be delivered and precious heat could escape. Consider sealing the slit and replacing it with an external mailbox.
- **Enroll in NIPSCO's BudgetPlan.** The BudgetPlan spreads bills out over the year and provides for predictable bills, making the costs incurred during winter months more manageable.
- **Low Income Programs Are Available.** If you are on a fixed income or a person with low income, there are programs available to help you pay your winter heating bills and weatherize your home.

For these and other tips on how to use energy wisely, log onto www.nipsco.com.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With over 712,000 natural gas customers and 445,000 electric customers across the northern third of Indiana, NIPSCO is the largest natural gas distribution company, and the second largest electric distribution company, in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.8 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at www.nipsco.com.

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