



Home Weatherization Rebates

Oregon homeowners and renters who heat with oil, wood, propane, kerosene, or butane are eligible for home-weatherization rebates of up to \$500 through the State Home Oil Weatherization (SHOW) Program, administered by the Oregon Department of Energy. Eligible homeowners can apply for cash rebates for a variety of weatherization and heat saving measures, including but not limited to:

- Insulation
- Weatherstripping and caulking
- Replacement windows
- Water heater insulation in unheated areas
- Programmable thermostats
- Replacement oil burner (80% or more efficiency)
- Replacement oil furnace (81% or more efficiency)
- Installation of a qualifying above-ground oil tank

“Keeping out the cold during winter and the heat during summer is one of the best things you can do to reduce your energy costs,” says Suzanne Dillard, Oregon Department of Energy Residential Program Manager. “In Oregon, you can get assistance to determine which energy-saving measures will save you money and there are rebates to help you pay for them.”

Residents complete an “Energy Audit Checklist” independently or with the assistance of a certified contractor to decide which measures are appropriate. After installing the new products, the “Energy Rebate” form must be filled out and mailed, along with the “Energy Audit Checklist” and copies of receipts to the Oregon Department of Energy. Rebate checks are typically received within four to eight weeks.

For full program details and forms, visit www.oregon.gov and type “SHOW Program” into the upper right hand search box or call 1-800-452-8660. ♦



Get Informed

When it comes to weatherization services, there is no shortage of companies offering “free” energy audit services while also trying to sell products to homeowners such as new windows or replacement siding. Ask family and friends for referrals, or check out a company’s customer satisfaction ratings on sites such as the Better Business Bureau, Angie’s List and Yelp. If possible, get three independent estimates in writing. ♦

Angie’s list



(stay cozy)



More No-Cost and Low-Cost Actions to Save Money

1. Replace incandescent lighting with compact fluorescent lighting which uses 75% less electricity, lasts longer, and will save you about \$30 a year in electricity costs.
2. Repair leaky faucets. Even a slow drip can waste up to 450 gallons of water a month (if it's hot water, you'll save on your water heating bills, too!).
3. Install high performance showerheads and faucet aerators and save up to 11% of your water use and save on water heating bills.
4. Turn water heater temperatures down to between 120°F and 130°F unless you have a dishwasher that requires a higher setting (check your dishwasher manual).
5. Wrap water heaters and water pipes in unheated areas and save as much as 9% on your water heating costs.
6. Unplug that second refrigerator and save as much as 2400 kilowatt-hours a year.
7. Lower your thermostat by just one degree and save up to 7% of your home heating costs.
8. Tune-up your furnace annually to improve efficiency and lower heating bills.



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Courtesy of the Oregon Department of Energy ♦

Never Run Out of Hot Water

Does oil heat produce a shower or bath that stays hot? It's a common question, but homeowners with oil-fired water heaters will tell you that they have low-cost access to virtually unlimited amounts of hot water. Oil heat's ability to produce a reliable, inexpensive supply of domestic hot water is one of its strongest features. Although an oil-fired water heater may cost a little more to install up front, its efficiency in heating water means extremely low operating costs over the life of the unit.

Oil-fired water heaters have high recovery rates, which means they can heat large amounts of water quickly. Homeowners should contact



their local oil dealer to find out which water heating option is best for their home and family. The oil company can work with you to make sure the water heater you choose has a sufficient recovery rate for your family's needs.

Source: OilheatAmerica.com ♦

Warm Up With Spiced Hot Chocolate

This homemade hot chocolate is flavored with vanilla, cinnamon, chili powder, nutmeg, and cloves.

Ingredients:

6 cups skim milk
3 tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder
3 tbsp white sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract

1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp chili powder
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp ground cloves

Heat the milk in a saucepan over medium-low heat until lukewarm; stir the cocoa powder and sugar into the warmed milk until dissolved. Add the vanilla, cinnamon, chili powder, nutmeg, and cloves. Heat another 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Recipe provided by Allrecipes.com ♦



Seal In the Heat

As much as 25% of the heat that moves through a forced-air duct system may be lost due to leaks, holes, and poorly connected ducts. The result is higher utility bills and difficulty keeping the house comfortable, no matter how the thermostat is set. How do you know if your home has poorly performing ducts? Look for the following signs:

- High heating (or cooling) bills
- Stuffy rooms that are too hot or too cold
- Drafts at registers when the heat is off
- Musty odors and condensation on windows
- Tangled or kinked flexible ducts in the system

Because ducts are often concealed in walls, ceiling, attics, and basements, repairing them can be difficult. Some homeowners choose to take on duct sealing as a do-it-yourself project. Start by sealing air leaks using mastic sealant or metal tape and insulating all the ducts that you can access (such as those in attics, crawlspaces, unfinished basements, and garages). Never use duct tape, as it is not long-lasting. Also, make sure that the connections at vents and registers are well-sealed where they meet the floors, walls, and ceiling. These are common locations to find leaks and disconnected ductwork.

Many homeowners, however, choose to work with a professional contractor for duct improvement projects. For qualified contractors, contact your local heating oil dealer.

For more information on duct sealing, visit www.energystar.gov or call 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937) ♦

Explore Oregon

Although it's warm and cozy inside, do the short, cold and wet days of winter have you dreaming about summer vacation? Is a trip to Tahiti not in the cards this year? It's not too early to begin planning a memorable getaway right here in our own state and there are some great resources to help get you going:

Explore every corner of the state on Travel Oregon (www.traveloregon.com), which offers an interactive map to help you plan the ultimate getaway. You can also sign up for a free newsletter or a request a complimentary copy of the beautifully designed *Travel Oregon* magazine.

Love camping, hiking, picknicking? Oregon's Parks and Recreation Department makes it easy to search for the perfect park—whether you want to spend an afternoon or stay for a week. Visit www.oregonstateparks.org or call 1-800- 800-551-6949 for more information.

The “Kids’ Page” on the official Oregon State website has a list of fun things to do with kids of all ages, from the Oregon Coast Aquarium to the John Day Fossil Beds. Go to <http://www.oregon.gov/Gov/GovKids/Places.shtml>. ♦



Oil Heat on the Web Questions about bioheat? Looking for an oil heat dealer? Log onto www.OregonOilheat.com for answers.

For more information about oil heat, please visit
www.oregonoilheat.com.

Or, contact the Oregon Oil Heat Help Desk at
503.546.5501 or **helpdesk@oregonoilheat.com**



Production of this newsletter supported by funding from the National Oilheat Research Alliance.

