Streamline

September 2008

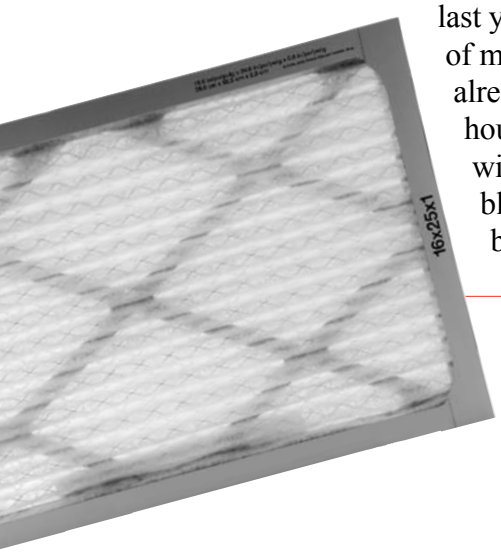
Time to Winterize Your Home

Is your house ready for the cold months ahead? **Heating bills this winter likely will be higher than last year.** Getting your home prepared for the upcoming winter season is a smart way to save money, with the added benefit of keeping your home nice and warm during the colder half of the year. Sometimes, just a few simple hours of maintenance can save you countless hours, dollars and headaches later on.

Here are some heat-saving tips that will help you save:

- **Seal leaks.** Take time to walk around the inside of your home to find possible leaks. Hold a candle or other flame near the seams in your windows and exterior doors. If the flame and smoke blow inward, you know you have a leak. To plug up those leaks you can get products like caulking, weather-stripping and foam sealant.
- **Close vents.** If you have a central heating system with ductwork, go around the house and close heating vents in rooms you don't use daily, especially those where you can close the door and seal off the room. If you have rooms with individual thermostats, keep seldom-used rooms cool.

- **Seal ducts.** Seal leaky air ducts at joints, starting at the furnace air handler, and insulate ducts that run through unheated basements or attics. A significant amount of the air that moves through a duct system is lost due to leaks and poorly sealed connections.
- **Change furnace air filters.** Buy a dozen filters to last you through a year's worth of monthly changes. If you already have filters in the house, you will be more likely to change them monthly. Also, cover the filter slot with a piece of wide tape to make sure all the air goes through the filter. Dirty filters block airflow through your heating and cooling systems, increasing your energy bill and shortening the equipment's life.



SemStream℠ Arizona Propane

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Ready, Set…Launch!

Streamline Pay, your online payment service, is just about ready to be launched! This online service is one of the fastest, most convenient ways to access your accounts or to pay your gas bill online.

Streamline Pay provides almost global access by you to your account. Your customer information and bill paying options are just a click away and are available to you 24 hours per day, seven days a week. It's easy, secure and fast.

Streamline Pay is a vital resource. Whether you pay your bill online, or simply need access to your personal account information, Steamline Pay is a tool that works for you. Keep a look out for this service to be unveiled in the near future…

Why are Propane Bills High in the Winter?

SemStream Arizona Propane tries to take every possible step to guarantee that our customers have a reliable, secure supply of propane at the most reasonable prices we can obtain. However, one of the primary reasons that customers' bills are more during the winter season is that everyone simply uses more propane.

But there are steps you can take to make the most efficient use of the propane you consume. A good starting place is to make sure that you've done everything that you can to improve your home's energy efficiency. See winterizing tips at the front of Streamline.

Being proactive is key! We suggest you set your thermostat to 55 degrees at night when you are under the covers and 55 degrees when away from your house for an extended amount of time. Turn up the thermostat on a needed basis. Turn down thermostats automatically without sacrificing comfort by installing an automatic setback or programmable thermostat. Set water heater temperatures at 120 degrees. This will allow a family to cut water-heating bills without sacrificing comfort. Also, draining your hot water heater and emptying unwanted sediment build-up once a year will help cut consumption.

Don't forget to sign up for EvenPay! EvenPay helps calculate a year round monthly payment plan and helps minimize the surprise of a higher than normal monthly bill. You pay the same amount each month, and then in the 12th month you will make up or receive a credit to zero balance your account. If you'd like to sign up for EvenPay, give us a call!

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