

To save energy and money, here are some places in your home to pay attention to.

Don't use traditional open fireplaces if you heat the rest of your home. They use the warm air as fuel for the fire and most of it goes up the chimney.



Seal off your evaporative cooler, if you have one, so your warm air doesn't go up the ductwork.



Make sure doors seal properly. A 1/8-inch crack around a door is the same as having a six-inch hole in a wall.



Close off unused rooms to cut costs if you have forced-air central heating.

Make sure your thermostat is not in the room you are closing.



Use exhaust fans sparingly. A kitchen or bathroom fan can pull out a lot of warm air in a short time.



Install a programmable thermostat to save when you are away. Or better yet let us install one for you as part of a PNM Home Energy Checkup. Details at PNM.com/checkup. The temperature you choose is especially important if you have electric heat. Set it at 68 degrees when you're at home and 60 to 62 degrees when you are away or sleeping.

Check around windows for leaks and drafts. Add weather stripping and caulk any holes and cracks.



Electric outlets can let cold air in. Install foam gaskets that fit behind the switch plate.



Ceiling fans can distribute the warm air hugging the top of the room. Reverse the switch so air blows upward, toward the ceiling.



For safety and efficiency, get a routine maintenance inspection of your heating system to make sure it is in good working order.



Use electric space heaters sparingly and safely. Using them a lot every day can add up on your bill. Keep it away from material that can catch fire, and use one with a safety tip over alarm. Direct the heat towards yourself and don't try to heat the entire room.