

Weatherize for winter

Now is the time to prepare your house for winter. Taking these steps can save energy and money. (See more on back.)

1 Close the **fireplace dampers** when the fireplace is not in use.

5

Even in the winter, your **ceiling fans** can be useful. Change their direction to clockwise to redirect warm air downward and leave them on a low speed.

4

Consider installing a **programmable thermostat**. Its features can save you as much as 10 percent per year on heating. Replace or clean your **furnace filter** every 30 days to maximize the furnace's efficiency.

3

Caulk and weatherstrip around **windows and doors** to prevent heat leakage. You also can use spray foam to seal air leaks and cover windows with plastic as an extra barrier.

2

Check the **insulation levels** in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, etc., to ensure they meet local energy code recommendations. You also can seal and insulate rim joists.

HOW-TO VIDEOS Go to oppd.com/usagetools to learn how to complete these tips and more at home.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETINGS

Committee: Tuesday, Oct. 15 (see oppd.com/BoardMeeting for time), Energy Plaza, 444 S. 16th St., Omaha. **Regular board meeting:** Thursday, Oct. 17, 4 p.m., same location. Hearing-impaired call 531-226-3208, 72 hours prior to request an interpreter. Agendas posted and meetings livestreamed online at oppd.com.

Outlets

OUR MISSION

Provide affordable, reliable and environmentally sensitive energy services to our customers.



Button up your home for winter

Before temperatures drop, you can take some simple steps to reduce the amount of heat loss from interior air leaks in your home. Below are two quick projects that will help lower your energy bill this winter. Find more energy-saving tips at oppd.com/usagetoools.

CAULKING AROUND WINDOWS

Older or poorly sealed windows can be a major cause of air leaks, which can increase your energy bill. Caulking is an easy way to eliminate these leaks and increase energy savings.

What you need: Putty knife or scraper, utility knife, rag, plastic spoon or ice cream stick, tube of paintable silicone caulk (or traditional caulk and caulk gun).

Steps

1. Using putty knife, remove any old or cracked caulk and flaked paint.
2. Knead the tube of caulk and cut off the tip at a 45-degree angle.
3. Starting at the top of the window, run an even bead of caulk down the side.
4. Run the spoon along the bead to smooth out the line.
5. Wipe off any excess caulk.
6. Continue around the outer edge of the window, then move to the inside frame. Avoid any movable parts. For double-hung windows, open the window to seal off any corners or gaps.

WEATHERSTRIPPING DOORS

The amount of air that can leak around the edges of a door is comparable to a six-inch hole. Stop leaks by replacing the weatherstripping around the door frame.

What you need: Utility knife, weatherstripping, door sweep, masking tape, screwdriver, and possibly pliers.

Steps

1. Remove any old weatherstripping.
2. Clean off any residue with soapy water. Let it dry completely.
3. Measure the weatherstripping.
4. Apply it along the stops of the door, removing the paper backing as you go, making sure it's secure.



This conceptual rendering approximates the new look of the Energy Plaza customer service area.

Energy Plaza renovation enhances customer service

OPPD's walk-in customer service office at Energy Plaza, its downtown Omaha headquarters, has a refreshed look and new hours, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

Metropolitan Utilities District service reps for walk-in customers also are available in OPPD's lobby. The opportunity to co-locate came after the sale of MUD's nearby downtown headquarters.

The two organizations retain their individual identities and separate operations. However, the opportunity to co-locate walk-in services enables customers of both utilities to conveniently pay bills and handle other business in one location.

There is a limited number of free, short-term parking stalls available in the Energy Plaza parking garage for customers. Enter off of Howard Street.

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