



Fall into super savings this season

This month I will . . .

"winterize" my home by changing the furnace filter and caulking doors and windows.

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Looking for simple ways to cut your utility bills as the cold weather approaches?

Try these **easy heating and air conditioning energy savers**:

Heating your home

- Change or clean your [furnace filter](#) once a month. Dust and dirt can quickly clog vital parts, making your furnace run harder and eventually break down.
- Have your heating system inspected regularly - especially if it's natural gas. A \$50-100 annual tune-up can help reduce your heating costs by up to five percent.
- If you have a forced-air furnace, [do NOT close off heat registers in unused rooms](#). Your furnace is designed to heat a specific square footage of space and can't sense a register is closed - it will continue working at the same pace. In addition, the cold air from unheated rooms can escape into the rest of the house, reducing the effectiveness of all your insulating and weatherizing.
- Install a [programmable thermostat](#). If you use it to set back the temperature by 10 degrees for eight hours every night, you'll lower your heating bills by 10 percent. A \$50 digital thermostat can pay for itself in energy savings in less than a year.

- Don't [set the thermostat](#) higher than you actually want it. It won't heat your home any faster, and it will keep your furnace running longer than necessary.
- Vacuum [registers and vents](#) regularly, and don't let furniture and draperies block the air flow. Inexpensive plastic deflectors can direct air under tables and chairs. If your home has a [boiler system](#), avoid covering radiators with screens or blocking them with furniture. It's also a good idea to add a reflecting panel behind radiators - you can purchase one at a home center or make one yourself with a plywood panel and aluminum foil.
- If your home has [electric baseboard heating](#), be sure to keep furniture and draperies away from the heaters, and leave at least a three-inch clearance under the heating unit.
- Keep [curtains and blinds](#) closed at night to keep cold air out, but open them during the day to let the sun warm the room.
- Avoid using [space heaters](#), including electric, kerosene or propane models. Not only are they expensive to operate, they're also very dangerous.
- If you have hardwood or tile floors, add area rugs for warmth



Fireplaces

- If you'll be going on [vacation](#), lower the thermostat to 55 degrees. This will save energy while preventing water pipes from freezing.
- If you have a [wood-burning fireplace](#), have the chimney cleaned and inspected regularly, and burn only fully dried hardwoods to produce the most heat output.
- Check the seal on the damper by closing it off and holding a piece of tissue paper inside the firebox. If drafts blow the tissue around, repair or replace the damper.
- When using the fireplace, turn down the furnace to 55 degrees. If you don't, all the warm air from the furnace will go right up the chimney, wasting energy and money.
- Add fireproof caulk where the chimney meets the wall, inside and outside.
- When the fireplace is not in use, make sure fireplace dampers are sealed tight, and keep the glass doors closed. If you never use your fireplace, plug the chimney with fiberglass insulation and seal the doors with silicone caulk.

Just because your yard isn't green doesn't mean that you can't be

A Green Guide to Fall Clean-up

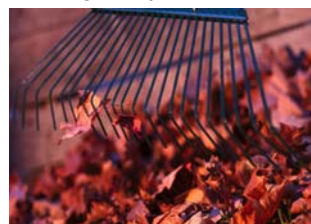
Around the start of summer, last year, we recommended some alternatives to gas powered lawn equipment. Here's an update / refresher course on what's new in mean, green lawn care machines this year:

Leaf blowers

Battery powered leaf blowers - Ah, as the leaves begin to fall and the air begins to chill, our thoughts turn to those pleasant Autumn walks in the park, surrounded by mother nature's glorious palette of yellow, orange and red. But let us not forget the uglier side of Fall - unsightly piles of fallen leaves,

which not only provide homes to countless woodland creatures, but also smother the grass you worked so hard to whip into shape all summer long.

If you're interested in pleasing your neighbors (no more ear-drum-shattering noise) and Mother Earth,



why not try a battery powered leaf blower this year? Be sure to visit www.countryhomeproducts.com

Hedge trimmers

Battery powered hedge trimmers - environmentally friendly and no more cut cords. Although they can only run for a limited amount of time on one charge, battery-powered trimmers offer smooth, quiet, eco-friendly operation, and are excellent choices for those who don't have many hedges to trim.

For more info, check out a few of these websites:

- www.growinglifestyle.com
- www.unleash.com

Gas prices on the rise – inside and outside the home – what you do to help the environment and your wallet

For years we've been told that gas heating is better for the environment and much more affordable than its electric counterpart.

Now that we're facing a gasoline crisis, consumer watchdogs have already begun to warn us that the price we pay for the natural gas pumped into our homes will see a sharp increase, as well.

Shunna Nixon, a Cement SE Region employee advises us to "call up your local gas provider and find out if they are letting customers 'lock in' rates."

If your gas company is offering this service, "take action quickly – go ahead and lock in a rate early, before the 'price per therm' spirals out of control."

Shunna, a SCANA Energy customer, locked in her rate at \$1.46 per therm, over a month ago and if predictions prove true, she may save up \$125 over the next few months.

Top tips for Winter Savings

1. Consider heating your home with the sun's help. Energy from solar panels or using solar heat to supplement your normal heating source is cost effective in most

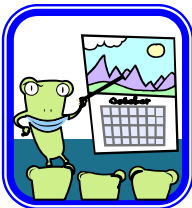


parts of the world. The initial cost may seem higher, but over the long run it costs the least and many energy hungry areas provide generous tax rebates for installing solar panels.

2. If wood is plentiful where you live, have a professional install a wood burning stove.
3. Keep fireplace damper closed when not in use.
4. Turn off heat when the fireplace is being used.

5. A glass front or glass screen will reduce fireplace heat loss.
6. Check efficiency ratings before purchasing appliances of any kind.
7. An electric blanket is much less expensive than heating your bedroom.
8. In the spring and fall, turn off the heat unless the temperature outside gets below freezing.

To learn more, please visit www.chiff.com/a/cut-heat-bills.htm



Oct 2005 Entries for Your Little Green Book ■■■■

5th Annual Dinner on the Grounds • Les Dames d'Escoffier • October 23, 2005 • 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM • Enjoy a day in the country filled with incredible fine wines & premium micro-brews; Georgia's finest organic produce, a fantastic silent auction, bluegrass tunes, one of a kind cakes, hayrides and much more. Proceeds support Georgia's organic farming community.

Serenbe Farm and B&B, 10950 Hutchison Ferry Rd. Palmetto, GA 30268 Tel: 404.888.9348

Bioneers Southeast Forum • October 28, 2005 • 7:30 AM - 10:00 PM • Connect with women, men, and youth making change in small and powerful ways across Georgia and the Southeast. First ever Bioneers Forum in the Southeast presents three days of workshops, brainstorming, visioning, alliance building and

problem-solving. Featuring locally-grown food, film screenings, and music. Live presentations from Janine Benyus, Thom Hartmann, Bill McKibben, Carolyn Raffensperger, Bernice Johnson Reagan of Sweet Honey in the Rock, and others. 1600 Peachtree Street Atlanta, GA 30309 Tel: 678.702.0400 Website: www.inspiringfutures.org/bioneers

Cobb Electronic Recycling Day • 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5. Residents can once again keep their old computers and television out of the landfill by bringing them to Cobb County's Electronic Recycling Day. Keep Cobb Beautiful will staff two dropoff sites: Jim R. Miller Park, 2245 Callaway Rd., Marietta and the Wal-Mart Shopping Center at 3100 Johnson Ferry Rd., Marietta. During the last electronics recycling

event in May, Cobb residents brought in more than 160,000 pounds of electronic items, including more than 1,200 monitors, 1,200 computers and 600 televisions, organizers said.

Items accepted at the dropoff sites include computer monitors and CPUs, televisions, microwave ovens, stereos, toasters, laptops, copiers, printers, video machines, alarm clocks, disk drives, can openers, camcorders, cameras, CB radios, and modems.

The list also includes telephone test and networking equipment, record players, CD players, circuit boards, speakers, portable radios, electrical panels, typewriters, battery back-up, CD-ROMs, fax machines, cell phones, cables, projectors, keyboards and scanners. Businesses who want to participate can call (678) 566-6665 to schedule pickups.

Go to KCB.CobbCountyga.gov or call (770) 528-1135 for information.

About Our Organization

Lafarge North America is the largest diversified supplier of construction materials in the United States and Canada. Headquartered outside of Washington D.C., Lafarge North America employs 15,500 people who work at approximately 1,000 Lafarge locations across the United States and Canada.

We believe that Lafarge North America will only succeed in the long term if our actions respect the common interest. This means we must not only comply with all applicable laws and regulations but also conduct our businesses consistent with pollution prevention and sustainable development principles. At the same time, we must take into account the views and opinions of our stakeholders. We are committed to the protection of the environment, human health and well being, to the mitigation of climate change and the conservation of nature.

Our objective is to ensure the continued improvement of our environmental performance. We aim to use energy and natural resources more efficiently, minimize the production of waste, air emissions, and water consumption and wastewater discharges, while seeking ways to preserve heritage, landscape and biological diversity.

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