

Lower Heat
Settings Save
Big Dollars
Big Dollars The heat-saving
techniques have gotten quite
familiar by now, but the familiar by now, but the
figures may surprise you. igures may surprise you.
Last week's cool nights ut Clayton E. Gentry, put Clayton E. Gentry,
district manager in
Elizabeth Elizabeth City for Virginia Electric and Power Com-
pany, to work educating the pany, to work educating the
public. A vital instrument in
cutting fuel cost is cutting fuel cost is your
thermostat. Using
70 degrees as a Uase 70 save 8 per cent of your can
cost by cost by lowering its per-
manent setting by manent setting by two the cost 8 per cent by raise vancing it two degrees. Drop the permanent you'll save 16 per cent. Raising it to 74 will have the reverse effect.
These are
These are the key
variations in thermostat setting. Gentry underscored the word "permanent" in describing the settings. A thermostat must be
located away located away from heat-
producing sources and out of cold drafts to be effective, Gentry said. The permanency of the setting is not absolute, he said. from home for several days, drop the thermostat setting, but never below 50 degrees. A cold snap can freeze your pipes and you'll be hit with a
plumber's bill far more costly than the fuel you might have saved. More figures that might
surprise you: surprise you: fireplace is only about 15 per cent effective even when it is well-designed and con-
structed." structed."
"Wood stoves may
achieve an efficiency of achieve an effroximately 50 per cent." Both can be made more cost-effective. But when calculating savings,
remember to add the cost of the wood unless you have the wood unless you have
youriowrsupply.Unless you have an existing, working chimney, do not forget the
cost of installing a venting system. This could involve cutting holes through walls or the roof. efficient, make certain a damper exists and works
properly. Install a fire properly. Install a fire
screen of clear safety glass. If at all feasible, install a vent to bring combustion air to your firebox from the
outside. If this is outside. If this is not
feasible, close off the room feasible, close off the room
containing the fireplace. It is not too late to make your home more heatefficient, Gentry said. Here
is what you can do: is what you can do:
Check those crawl space Check those crawl space
and attic vents. Close some, but not all, of the underside vents. Some ventilation is needed to keep moisture down. Remember to open
the vents in the spring. Keep those attic vents open or you may have moisture co densation and damage. Clear your radiators, registers or other heatrugs or furniture. If you have a ducted hot
air system, replace or clean the air filters as necessary. Generally, three cleanings
are necessary during a are necessary during a
heating season. Dirty air filters cause your heating unit to work longer and harder. ducts for leaks. Duct work in unheated areas should be insulated properly with a
minimum of $11 / y$ insulation ( $R-4$ ). make sure your outdoor unit is free of leaves, debris or anything that may block the flow of air across the coils.
Use the sun as Use the sun as much as
possible. Remove any awnings or overhangs that will block the sun from your draperies. Keep the draperies and shades open
by day and drawn by night. by day and drawn by night.
Here is where you may need help:
Get that heating system in top condition, because you
may need to call on it on may need to call on it on very short notice. Clean the
flues, check and adjust the bells, lubricate the motors and pumps and adjust the


