## DEBUNKING WINTER ENERGY SAVINGS MYTHS: WHAT REALLY WORKS?



When it comes to winter energy savings, there's a lot of advice out there, but not all of it holds up. Here, we discern fact from fiction regarding three common methods people employ to conserve energy in the colder months.

## CLOSING VENTS IN CERTAIN ROOMS: FICTION

Some believe that closing vents in unused rooms conserves energy, but in reality, it does the opposite. Heating systems are designed to utilize all vents in the entire house. Closing off rooms forces the system to work harder, consuming more energy. Instead, opt for a furnace tune-up, change filters regularly, and consider a smart thermostat to maintain efficiency.



## CHANGING CEILING FAN DIRECTION: FACT

Changing the direction of your ceiling fan in winter is a smart move. Set it to spin clockwise to push warm air near the ceiling down into the living space. However, remember to turn it off when leaving the room to maximize efficiency.

## HEATING WITH A WOOD-BURNING FIREPLACE: FICTION

While a wood-burning fireplace may add ambiance, it's an inefficient way to heat your home, according to the EPA and U.S. Department of Energy. It can increase heating bills by pulling warm air up the chimney and allowing cold air inside. Instead, if you enjoy the fireplace, keep the flue damper closed when not in use, and consider adding doors or a cover to minimize drafts. Natural gas options are more efficient, with some models featuring blowers to distribute warm air efficiently.

