



91% of all newly built single-family homes in the Midwest choose natural gas heat.



## Optimizing Your Furnace Performance

To stay in top shape your furnace needs periodic maintenance and tuning. A regular maintenance program is relatively inexpensive and will greatly increase the efficiency and life of your unit. Please refer to your owner's manual for all required and recommended maintenance and hire a qualified technician whenever needed. By implementing these recommendations, you may be able to save up to 10% on your heating bills through decreased consumption.

## Helpful Tips

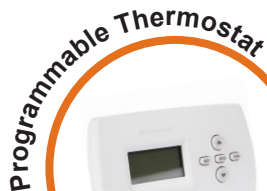
**Inspect filters and replace these on a regular basis.** Checking the filters in your system once a month during times of high use will help insure proper airflow. Be sure to keep a couple of correctly sized filters on hand if yours are disposable.

**Have a heating professional inspect and adjust the system and controls for optimum performance.** Some of the items that he or she will inspect include heat exchangers, burner tips, fan motors, and burner controls.

**Check all ducts for leaks.** The majority of problems arise from leaky or damaged duct work. Either you or a professional heating contractor should check the entire length of your ductwork for leaks, even very small ones.

**Seal Ducts.** Turn the furnace on and feel along the duct for escaping warm air. Also look for tell-tale black marks on the duct's insulation -- these are usually the signs of leaks. Have your heating contractor seal any leaks carefully with mastic-type sealant -- not duct tape. Duct tape is not a long-term fix. Don't forget to seal leaks where your furnace connects with your ductwork.

**Connect Ducts.** Disconnected ducts are common and a big source of heat loss -- yet they are simple to reattach with duct ties and mastic. If an attic or crawl space duct comes loose, you can lose a tremendous amount of heat and money. In essence, you could be paying hundreds of dollars a year to heat the outdoors. The disconnected ducts also unbalance the airflow of the heating system, which can create unsafe operating conditions. If you have a room that never gets warm, check behind vents or in crawl spaces for disconnected or crushed ducts. Insulate ducts with R6 or specialized duct wrap. This will retain heat and make your system more efficient and cost effective.



### Capture more savings!

An ENERGY STAR® qualified programmable thermostat allows you to automatically dial down the temperature while you're away or asleep. You can save up to 5% per year by turning back your thermostat 5 degrees for eight hours a day.

