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Checklist for a Safer, Warmer Home

By Paul Bianchina, Inman News

High energy prices are taking their toll on just about everyone this year, so it's important to do whatever you can to create and maintain an energy-efficient home.

___Check all insulation levels: Improving insulation levels can be a highly effective way of increasing your home's comfort and energy efficiency.

___Check and seal heating ducts: Check for gaps between ducts and fittings, and seal them with a quality metallic tape.

___Check weather stripping: Gaps around doors and windows allow cold outside air to enter your home. Closely examine each exterior door and window to see that the weather stripping is doing

its job.

___Seal exterior penetrations: Spend a day working your way around the outside of the house with a caulking gun and a couple of tubes of high-quality, flexible caulking, and seal any gaps around window and door trim, plumbing and electrical penetrations, flashings and other openings.

___Add outlet gaskets: Shut the power, remove switch and outlet plates, and add precut foam outlet gaskets, which are available from home centers, hardware stores and other retailers.

___Change furnace filters: It's another one of those simple and inexpensive tasks that can add to your home's efficiency and your family's comfort.

___Upgrade your thermostat: Programmable thermostats are digital and typically very accurate, and they allow for easy, set-and-forget programming of temperatures for different times of the day, including energy-saving nighttime and workday setbacks.

___Clean and service fireplaces and woodstoves: Make sure that your gas, wood, and pellet-burning fireplaces and stoves are clean and operating correctly.

___Install a carbon monoxide detector: Make it a point to install a carbon monoxide detector.

___Check smoke detectors: Check to see that your smoke detectors are operating correctly, and install fresh batteries.

Portions of this article were reprinted from www.seniorark.com

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I (we) hereby authorize Acadian On Call to initiate debit entries to my (our) Checking account indicated below at the depository named below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, to debit the same to such account.

****First month is test month. You will receive a bill.**Please include voided check**

****For the initial debit month, all previous balances will be debited to bring account current.****

Depository Name: _____ Branch: _____

City Routing Number: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Account#: _____

This Authorization is to remain in full force and effect until Acadian On Call has received written notification from me (either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford Acadian On Call and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name(s): _____ ID#: _____

Date: _____ Signed _____

Note: All written debit authorizations MUST provide that the receiver may revoke the authorization only by notifying the originator in the manner specified in the authorization.