

## Heating Systems Check

One thing you want your home to be in winter, is warm and cozy. And a key ingredient to being warm and cozy is heat - hot water and warm air. Before the chilly weather comes in, it's important to make sure these things are in good working order.

**The Water Heater:** You want your water heater protected from the elements. They can be put in the attic, or in the basement and you also want the water pipes completely protected and insulated from the cold. An inexpensive water heater insulated wrap or blanket can be purchased at a local hardware store for about \$15 - \$30 (depending on the size of your tank).

**Your Heating Unit:** Every fall you should turn on your heater to make sure it's in working order. Check the filters, the gas flow, and the flame. Make sure you have a proper flame, with the right amount of gas and oxygen.

If you aren't sure how to do this, call a professional. Often, you can get a yearly contract for this service and with a service contract, if they do have to replace or repair any parts, you usually get a break on the rate. It doesn't cost near as much to make a repair during a service call as it does if it breaks down in winter.