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## TIPS TO SAVE MONEY ON HOME HEATING

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**ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA (EG)<sup>1</sup>**-- This fall, as the leaves begin to change color and the air becomes crisp, the thought of turning up the thermostat - only to be hit with another season of high home heating bills - will probably make most people shiver.

But for anyone who is thinking of cutting the chill with a couple of extra sweaters, the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA) of Arlington, VA has good news. People can reduce monthly heating expenses by installing a hearth product, such as a freestanding stove or a fireplace insert, as a secondary heater for the high-use zones of a house.

“With a hearth product, people can focus heat where they spend the most time, like family rooms or kitchens,” said Carter Keithley, president of the HPBA. “This concentrated heat requires less energy and helps save money on home heating bills.”

The concept of zone heating with a hearth product has the greatest potential for cost savings when people add a wood or pellet burning stove, or fireplace insert, because of the cost of the fuel. This past winter firewood was approximately 61 percent less expensive than electricity and around 20 percent less than oil and natural gas. The savings with pellet fuel was also significant.

(more)

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The addition of a gas stove or gas fireplace insert can also provide home heating relief because these state-of-the art hearth products operate with greater efficiency than many older gas furnaces in homes today and do not lose heat through inefficient ductwork.

The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association offers the following tips to help keep home heating costs in control this season:

- **Determine the zones to heat:** Taking an inventory of the rooms most used in a house to help determine where to concentrate heat for the most comfort.
- **Update an existing fireplace:** Most traditional fireplaces are a major source of energy loss. If the chosen zone has a fireplace, adding an energy-efficient fireplace insert can turn the fireplace into an effective heating source.
- **Add a freestanding stove:** Kitchens, living rooms and family rooms without fireplaces are good candidates for freestanding stoves. Most stoves are compact and can easily be installed in rooms with limited space requirements.
- **Choose a fuel:** Natural gas, propane, wood, and wood pellets can be burned in either a fireplace insert or a freestanding stove.

For more information about fireplace inserts or freestanding stoves, visit a hearth specialty retailer or go to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association Web site at [www.hpba.org](http://www.hpba.org). This site features a search engine to locate a hearth specialty retailer and free consumer information to help select the appropriate stove or fireplace insert.

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<sup>1</sup> Evergreen