

## Winter's coming!

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It's not too late to be thinking about saving on your winter energy bills! Here are a few tips, many from DTE Energy.

- *Improve your attic insulation:* It is the easiest and cheapest way to improve the insulation of your home. Look for a high R value on the fiberglass insulation you choose. Make sure the insulation is in contact with the wall board that comprises the ceiling when you install it.
- *Improve basement insulation:* If you have bare foundation walls in your basement, consider framing them with 2x4 studs, and fill with batts of insulation or rigid foam insulation.
- *Control air leaks:* If you feel a draft from a window, door or even electrical outlet, seal these air leaks. Caulk by doors and windows (make sure it is for exterior usage). Use weather stripping by doors. Purchase plugs for capping unused outlets.
- *Heating leaks in ducts:* Examine ductwork where it is visible and check for deteriorated duct tape and replace it.
- *Hot water heater insulation:* These wraps are very inexpensive and help you save dollars immediately!

We hope you can keep cozy and save money this winter!





**BEFORE:**

## New Master Bath Remodel

A dated bathroom is transformed with luxury tile, enlarged neo-angle shower, Euro glass shower door, cultured marble tops for his and her oak vanities and heated tile floors!



**AFTER!**



## Trend Report

Check out [www.formica.com](http://www.formica.com) and see their new 180fx laminate countertop that looks amazingly like granite!! We now have large samples of this new wonderful option at the Design Center. Maybe it's what you've been waiting for!



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# Chef Robin's Winter Cooking Classes

A great date night—or girls night out

January 15: Try some Thai on for Size

February 26: French Bistro Cooking

March 19: Chef on a Shoestring

All classes Friday, 6:30 pm Call 863-6322

DreamMaker Design Center or

[www.rpssignmeup.com](http://www.rpssignmeup.com)

\$40 per person (Wine tasting is optional)



## *Heads up for APRIL 2010!*

If you own a *pre-1978 home* and need remodeling done, we suggest doing it *before this date!* At that time EPA lead paint rules take effect and the cost of remodeling for these homes will rise significantly! We estimate that each remodeling project will increase approximately 10% after this date.

Bill Wolf is now a lead-paint certified remodeler.



## **Best Home Improvement Investments**

While the average home price has fallen by a national average of 7%, the value of homeowner's remodeling investments has declined less than 4%. The following are averages, which also depend on factors such as the neighborhood, the timing of selling the home and the current market conditions. These projects typically pay back:

1. Upscale fiber cement siding, 86.7%
2. Mid-range vinyl siding, 80.7%
3. Up-scale foam-backed vinyl siding, 80.4%
4. Mid-range minor kitchen remodel, 79.5%
5. Upscale vinyl window replacement, 79.2%
6. Mid-range wood window replacement, 77.7%
7. Mid-range major kitchen remodel, 76%
8. Mid-range bathroom remodel, 74.6%
9. Upscale bathroom remodel, 70.7%
10. Upscale kitchen remodel, 70.7%

(from Detroit Free Press Article, 11/1/09 & Cost vs. Value Report 2009)

