



## Heating Oil Advice Handout

Tips for saving money on heating oil this winter:

### 1. Buy your heating oil early

The most important aspect of cutting your fuel bill this winter is by buying as much of your fuel as possible at the right time.

It is obviously difficult to predict when the optimum time to buy heating oil is as there are a number of global and economic factors that contribute to the variation of the price of heating oil which cannot always be forecast.

As a general rule of thumb though heating oil is often more expensive in the winter months as it is in more demand. It can be helpful to ensure your tank is filled up in the summer, when prices are generally lower, topped up in the autumn and only order oil in the winter when absolutely necessary. Then only order oil in order to avoid big bills in the winter.

Remember with the CCB Oil Club you pay the same price for 500 litres as you do for 1000 or more so you do not get penalised for keeping your tank topped up by ordering 500 litres at a time.

### 2. Turn your Thermostat Down

It is important to ensure that the thermostat in your home is not too high and is accurate. According to OFTEC (Oil Firing Technical Association): "Accurate system controls can save money by reducing heat wastage. Reducing room temperature by one degree can save up to 10%".

You can also save money on fuel bills by using energy in an efficient way, and be warmer and healthier as a result. Grants and discount schemes are available to help make better use of your energy, such as help with insulation costs. There are also various schemes and discounts available for older and vulnerable people, which can also help with energy costs. For further information please visit the Citizen's Advice Bureau's website at: <http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/england.htm>

### 3. Service Your Boiler

Service your boiler at least once a year. Carbon deposits can build up reducing the boiler efficiency and increasing the amount of fuel required to produce the same level of heat. To save money on heating oil, the fuel efficiency of the boiler is key!



#### 4. Insulation and Draft Exclusion

If there is not adequate insulation of your home, heat will escape more quickly causing you to use more fuel, particularly in the winter. Insulation is an important way of keeping heat in, or out, of buildings and is a vital part of energy savings. Heat escapes from all parts of the building, but as the figures below show, most is lost through the walls and roofs.

Walls – 35%

Roof – 25%

Draughts – 15%

Floor – 15%

Windows – 15%

(Figures supplied by Energy Savings Trust)

To find out what insulation deals and support are currently available please visit the Which website: <http://www.which.co.uk/energy/creating-an-energy-saving-home/guides/energy-grants/free-insulation-deals/>

#### 5. Avoid Direct Debit

Direct Debit schemes can seem like a good way to spread the cost of oil across the 12 month period but they can also be costly and prevent you from shopping around for the best possible deal. Instead of tying yourself to an oil supplier with direct debit why not set up a standing order and put that money into a savings account instead. You will earn some interest on the money as it accrues and you will know that money is available when the time comes to order and pay for oil.

#### 6. Join an Oil Club

If you want to avoid big bills, getting together with other users to form an oil club can be a great way to save money on fuel costs. People who have already signed up to oil clubs have found that they can save money by buying larger quantities together with others.

By getting together to buy in bulk, oil clubs can get better deals from oil distribution companies. Combining orders also means fewer delivery journeys, reducing congestion on roads. It also reduces disruption in villages, as everyone can have their oil delivered on the same day.

For further information on the CCB Oil Club please visit: [www.ccb-oil-club.org.uk](http://www.ccb-oil-club.org.uk)

Information gathered from:

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

<http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>