



Friends with HVAC: The One About Staying Warm in Winter Weather

Though some might disagree, any true Angeleno knows that it gets cold around here in the winter months! Luckily, your central heating and air conditioning system is here to help. But few are necessarily aware of the ways you can keep your utility bills low while staying toasty indoors. Consider these energy efficiency tips as you enjoy the season.



Smart Thermostats Save Money

Trust us when it comes to this relatively inexpensive upgrade: a Smart thermostat. In today's world, it's a great way to save money as you heat and cool your home. While your old thermostat allows you to set a temperature, it won't be able to adjust for your family's schedule, nor will it provide the extra usage intel that even the cheapest Smart product will show. And it's

a fact: using a Smart thermostat will save you up to 15% on energy bills starting the day you install it.

Assess Your Home for Drafts

Take a look around your home for leaky doorways and windows that might be letting cold air in unnecessarily. Floor length drapes, curtains and other window coverings can also insulate your home against harsh outdoor temperatures.

Check Your Air Filters

This is probably the easiest, least expensive way to improve energy efficiency in your home. These filters are available almost anywhere and are easy to swap out. Don't forget that a dirty air filter forces your system to work harder, creating greater strain on individual HVAC components that can lead



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to equipment failure later on. They also have a significant negative impact on your indoor air quality. Some clients prefer to change the air filter every month, but we recommend at least every 3 months with all the smoke, pollution and other climate issues Southern California frequently experiences.

Consider Indoor Temperature

Raising a thermostat from 68 degrees generally means that you'll pay an extra 3% on your heating costs for every degree you raise it. Stay mindful and educate family members on this small but significant cost difference. It matters!

Ceiling Fans Can Help

We saved the best for last!

Did you know a ceiling fan can ensure your indoor air is evenly warm throughout the room? As hot air rises, a fan set on a low, clockwise rotation will push warmth downward from the ceiling. Ceiling fan motion can also be reversed with the flip of a switch, allowing you to reverse blade direction for changing seasons.

And remember, if you haven't had your HVAC properly maintained in the past year, don't wait until something breaks down to fix it. Call us today at **(626) 357-3535** to schedule your appointment. We will inspect, clean, and perform the regular maintenance tasks necessary

to keep your HVAC system performing at peak efficiency for many years to come.



Joke Time!

Q. What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A. Frosted Flakes.

Q. Why did she break up with the meteorologist?

A. It was a stormy relationship from the start.

Q. What's an ig?

A. A snow house without a loo!



Saving Money This Winter Can Be Fun!

If you're like our family, economizing throughout the year is a priority. Nevertheless, enjoying the season is also important, so we thought we'd share some of our best suggestions for ways to spend less while enjoying more with family and friends, especially here in beautiful Southern California.

Get Outside and Get Moving

Take a walk from Fern Dell to the Griffith Park Observatory. You'll get an incredible view of Los Angeles. You can also check out the telescopes and see the cool Hollywood Sign. It is a must-see for both out-of-town visitors and locals as well. It's all free, too!

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Practice Gratitude and Giving Back

Consider participating in a community volunteer activity this season. Beach and trail cleanups are frequently scheduled through HealTheBay.org or TreePeople.org. Both have specific programs for kids and families looking to get involved.

Clean Out That Closet for Fun and Profit

Most of us are swimming in stuff, why not consolidate it with a family cleanup day? Have children gather toys they don't play with, while you pull out clothes that don't fit, furniture no one will ever use, etc. for donation, passing along to a friend, or even selling!

Now more than ever, there is a huge interest community-wide in these kinds of "pre-loved" items.



Give a No-Spend Saturday a Try

A no-spend Saturday can be a fun challenge for any family. Take a walk as a family instead of going to the movies, cook something at home for dinner instead of ordering out. Try doing this for just a day, or for a full weekend if you dare!

Whatever your lifestyle, staying aware of our financial resources and how we use them is always a useful exercise. Inviting your family to participate in this process can teach kids not only responsible spending habits, but also valuable "adulting" skills for the future.

Winter Crossword Puzzle



1. → SNOWFLAKE 1. ↓ SNOWMAN 2. HAT 3. BOOT 4. SCARF 5. SKI 6. CABIN 7. EARMUFFS 8. MITTEN 9. SWEATER

ANSWER KEY:

Coupons



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Air-Tro sent out a technician almost immediately. He fixed the problem, which was a faulty wire, and he cleaned the sensor. He did a fantastic job and was very professional. They treated me like family. —Vicky C.

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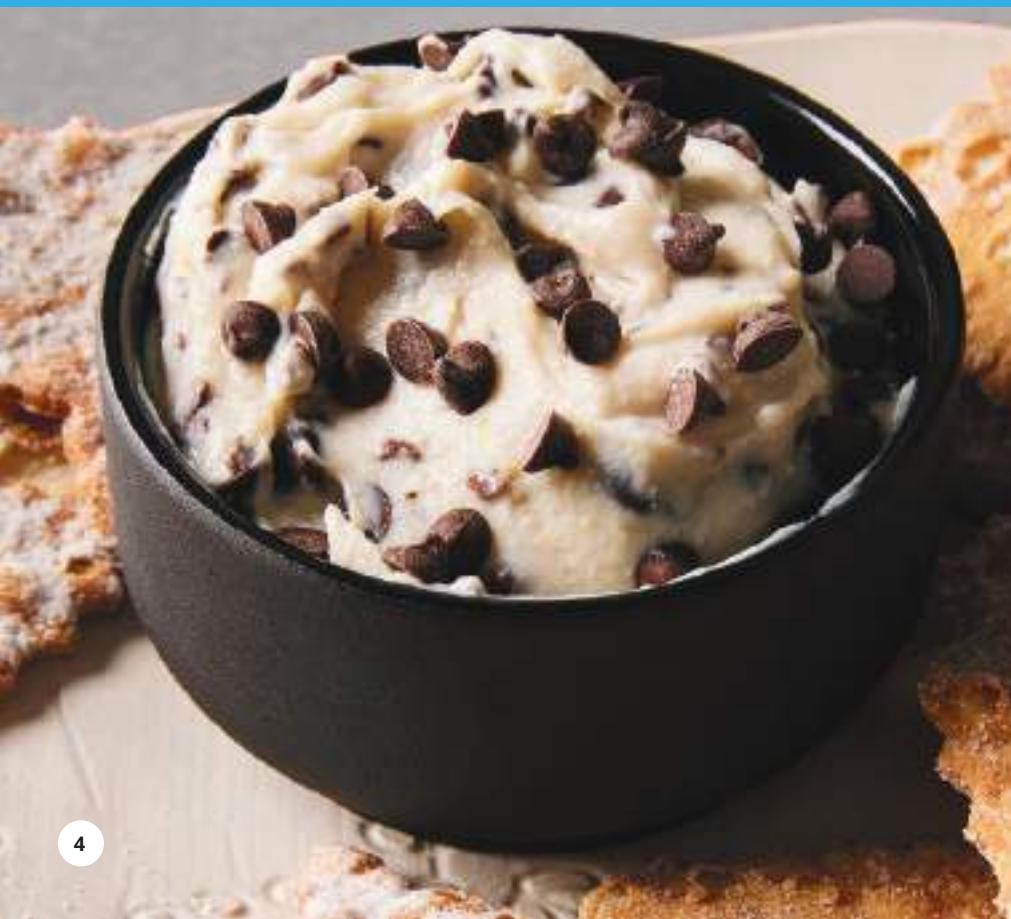
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Best Cannoli Dip Recipe



Ingredients

1 cup whole-milk ricotta cheese
1 cup mascarpone cheese
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar, sifted
1 teaspoon lemon zest
1 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1/2 cup mini chocolate chips, plus more for serving

Directions

Step 1: In a medium bowl, whisk together ricotta cheese, mascarpone cheese, confectioners' sugar, lemon zest, and vanilla extract until incorporated and no lumps remain.

Step 2: Fold in chocolate chips.

Step 3: Serve immediately with more chocolate chips sprinkled on top, or store in an airtight container for up to one week.

<https://food52.com/recipes/88431-best-cannoli-dip-recipe>