

# Three Steps to Cost-Effective Home Heat Protection

## Step 1: Plan ahead to keep cool

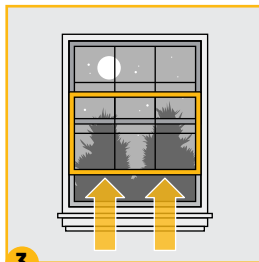
Do-it-yourself, \$0



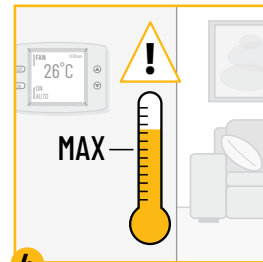
1 Help vulnerable neighbours, family, friends prepare and arrange to check on them during heat events.



2 Sign up for heat alerts on your phone (e.g., [WeatherCan](#), [Alertable](#)).



3 Improve indoor air circulation with portable or ceiling fans, and naturally ventilate your home by opening windows and doors, particularly at night.



4 Monitor indoor temperature to protect residents from unsafe heat.



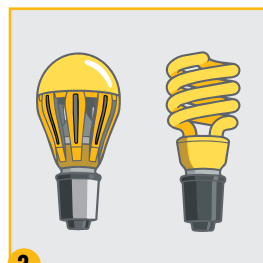
5 Temporarily arrange to work or sleep in cooler rooms (e.g. basement).

## Step 2: Complete simple upgrades

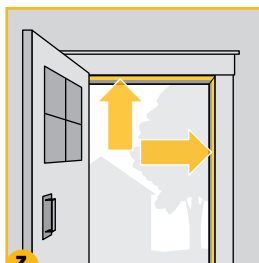
Do-it-yourself, for under \$500



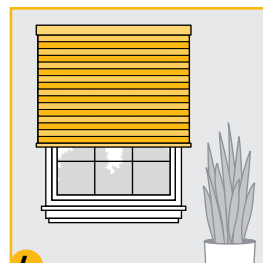
1 Plant and maintain shade trees, especially along south, east and west facing walls.\*



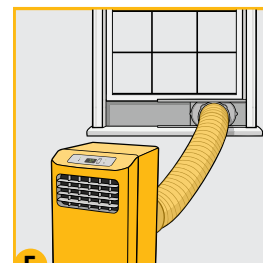
2 Choose energy efficient lights that produce less “waste” heat.



3 Improve home insulation and air tightness (e.g., draft strips).



4 Install blinds, heat-resistant curtains, or films on windows.



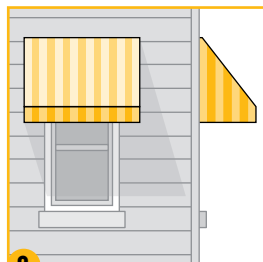
5 Use a portable AC to help increase air circulation.

## Step 3: Complete more complex upgrades

Work with a contractor, for over \$500



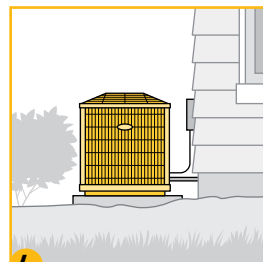
1 Convert paved areas to vegetation which absorbs less heat and more water.\*



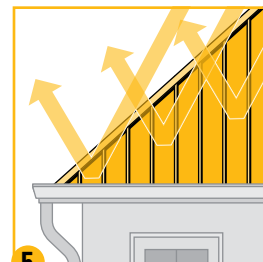
2 Shade windows with outdoor shutters and awnings.



3 Install windows and doors that have a low Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (let less heat in).



4 Install and maintain a heat pump or air conditioning unit.



5 Apply cool roof coatings and use infrared-reflective paint on sun-exposed exterior walls.

\* Seek local advice on appropriate native species, and, in places at risk of wildfire, consider [FireSmart™ guidance](#).

Note: For any upgrades, check with your landlord or strata.

