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Tips

How to Keep a Second Floor Warmer

Do your feet get cold on your upstairs floor in the winter? Does the downstairs roast while the upstairs chills? Are there big vaulted ceilings that restrict air movement? You've probably checked the furnace filter, but did you (or a professional) check the ducting for leaks, obstructions, proper sizing and number? Are your ceiling fans set for winter circulation? Is the insulation sufficient? All of these are factors are common heating issues in modern two-story homes. Here are some good suggestions from eHow for how to improve second-floor heating. If you continue to have problems after you've done all the common-sense things within your abilities, we suggest you find a qualified professional to check the system.

Emergency Utility Shutoffs

With winter and the winter holidays coming up quickly, it's a good time to review where your utility shutoff devices are and how to operate them. Generally speaking, modern homes have a variety of safety shutoff devices for water, electricity and gas and/or fuel oil (if present). For safety, each gas device is required to have an individual shutoff. You can save yourself untold damage and dollars if you know how to quickly locate and operate your emergency utility shutoffs. Here are our suggestions for how to do just that.

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Choosing the Right Door Handles

Often we take advantage of the winter months to do tasks around the house that we have been putting off. If you have been thinking of replacing door handles,

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We consider referrals from our friends, clients and associates to be the greatest compliment that we could receive. Thank you for keeping our company in mind whenever a referral presents itself.

DIY Home Tips says, "If you thought that choosing new door handles was a simple task, then you have obviously never spent much time looking around at them! There are literally hundreds of designs and colors to consider and it is all too easy to [go] home with the wrong type of handle altogether... After all, a good door handle is not all about looks alone; there is also practicality, quality and functionality to be aware of." Here is their [brief guide](#), which will help you find the most suitable handles for your purposes.

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How to Clean a Burner on an Electric Stove

The burners on an electric range get dirty with caked-on messes, often after a single use. The best way to keep your burners clean is to clean them after every use. Messes are much easier to remove when they are fresh. Make sure the burners have sufficiently cooled before attempting to clean. Use a kitchen towel to wipe the cool burners clean of any spills after use. Rubbing alcohol will remove caked-on messes and sanitize. For more difficult messes, soak a kitchen towel with rubbing alcohol and set it on top of the stain for an hour or two. This will soften the mess and make it easier to wipe away. For a detailed, soap-and-soda approach to clean the burners, see this [Ehow article](#).

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NEWS

On October 24, 2011 President Obama announced new measures to help borrowers refinance their existing mortgages to new loans with lower interest rates and cheaper monthly payments. The plan is an expansion of an existing program to help borrowers who are not behind on their payments but cannot refinance because they do not have enough equity in their home. Or they might be underwater--which means they owe more than their home is worth. See analyses of the plan by the [Associated Press](#) and the [National Association of Realtors](#) to find more about how it will work and who will benefit.

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Fast Facts

- ε The wettest spot in the world, Mt. Waialeale on Kauai Island, consistently receives nearly 500 inches of rain per year.
- ε The hyoid bone in the throat is the only bone in the human body not joined to another.
- ε No two spider webs are the same.
- ε Honeybees kill more people worldwide than all the poisonous snakes combined.
- ε The average person in North America will consume 10,000 chocolate bars in a lifetime.

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