

# Three Steps to Cost-Effective Home Heat Protection

## Step 1: Plan ahead to keep cool

Do-it-yourself, \$0



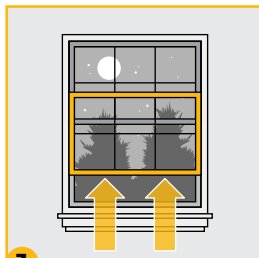
1

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](#)).



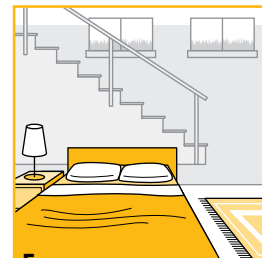
3

Learn how to best use windows and doors to naturally ventilate your home, particularly at night.



4

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



5

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

## Step 2: Complete simple upgrades

Do-it-yourself, for under \$250



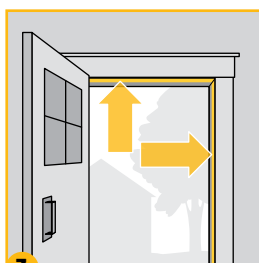
1

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



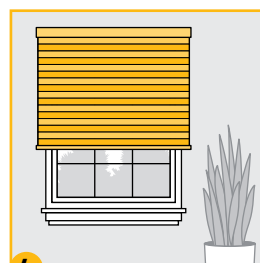
2

Grow plants climbing up your walls, and on decks and balconies.\*



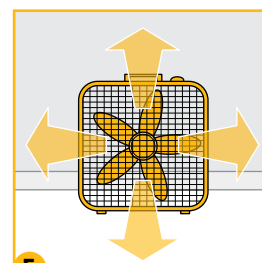
3

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



4

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



5

Use portable or ceiling fans that increase air circulation.

## Step 3: Complete more complex upgrades

Work with a contractor, for over \$250



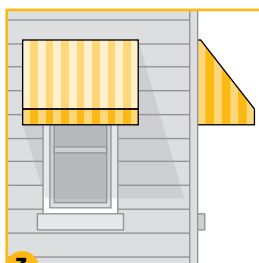
1

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



2

Install a green (vegetated) or reflective roof.\*



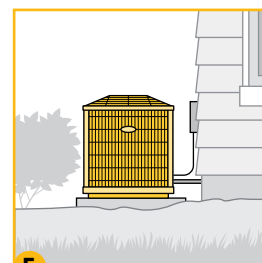
3

Shade windows with outdoor shutters and awnings.



4

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



5

Install and maintain a heat pump or air conditioning unit.

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

