



## Demand For Pre-Season Furnace Tune-ups Heats Up.

In recent months Kosco technicians have been busy performing routine heating system tune-ups to thousand of homes in the Hudson Valley. “Our technicians have been extra busy this year in Dutchess County” say’s Mike Berardi, manager of Kosco’s Dutchess County Office. With the increase in fuel costs homeowners are rushing to get their heating systems running at maximum efficiency. Fortunately Berardi explains, “Kosco has been hiring and training additional technicians to meet this expected demand.” All too often homeowners will wait till the cold weather before requesting a tune-up. “I know when the warm weather is here most homeowners are not thinking about their heating system”, Berardi continues; “The very best time to schedule a tune-up is spring to early fall when technicians are not out on emergency cold weather service calls.”

It is not uncommon to find an inefficient heating system running at less than 70% percent of its potential efficiency explains one seasoned Kosco technician. In this situation a tune-up can save the homeowner using 1000 gallons of fuel per year over \$500.00. “With the cost of fuel so high today the name of the game is: efficiency” explains Berardi.

**The New York State Consumer Protection Board recommends that homeowners get their heating system tuned-up annually.** Other common sense actions suggested can help a homeowner save significant amounts of money on their home heating bill: Lowering your thermostat can save approximately 3% fuel usage; Improve the efficiency of your water heater which account for about 14% of your energy bill; Weatherize and insulate your home, paying special attention to windows and attic insulation; Use only energy star appliances; replace old outdated inefficient heating systems with modern high efficient system that can obtain 90% efficiency. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) offers energy savings tips and instructions at [www.homeenergysaver.lbl.gov](http://www.homeenergysaver.lbl.gov). The home "walk-through" may help you spot needed maintenance or problems that, if fixed, could save you money.

Berardi pointed out that the “No Surprises” service plan offered by Kosco cost only \$204.00 annually and includes labor and parts for an annual tune-up. Typically this same tune-up could cost a non-contract homeowner \$100-\$150.00 from other heating companies. “As far as we can tell the Kosco service plan may be the best value in the Hudson Valley. It covers 24/7 emergency service and nearly all parts and labor. I can’t see how a homeowner can go wrong” stated Berardi. Currently, Kosco has hired a certified trainer and built a state-of-the-art training facility to train new apprentice technicians and offer higher level continuing education training to experienced technicians.

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