

# THREE STEPS TO COST-EFFECTIVE HOME HEAT PROTECTION

## Step 1: Plan ahead to keep cool

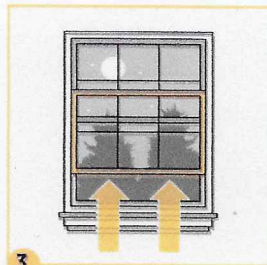
Do-it-yourself, \$0



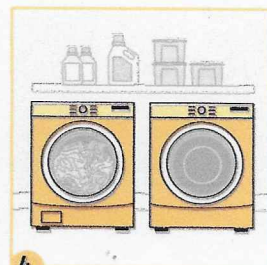
1 Help vulnerable neighbours, family, friends prepare and arrange to check on them during heat events.



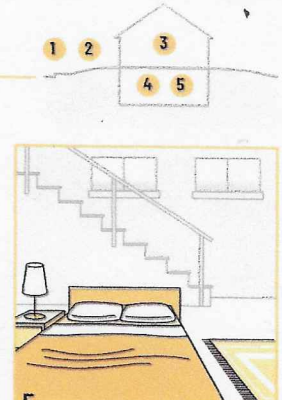
2 Sign up for heat alerts on your phone (e.g., [WeatherCan](#)).



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



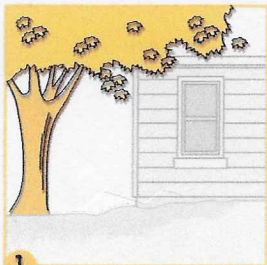
4 Choose energy efficient lights and appliances that produce less "waste" heat.



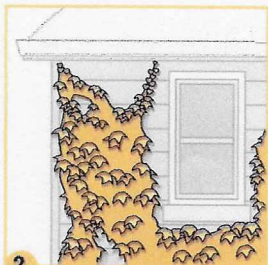
5 Temporarily arrange to work or sleep in cooler rooms (e.g. basement).

## Step 2: Complete simple upgrades

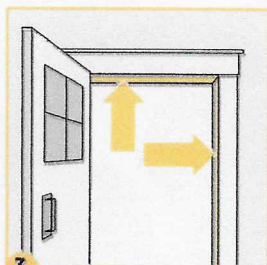
Do-it-yourself, for under \$250



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



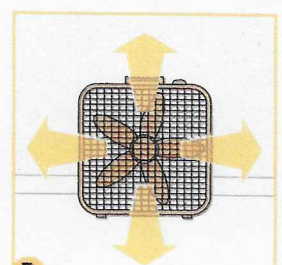
2 Grow plants climbing up your walls, and on decks and balconies.\*



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



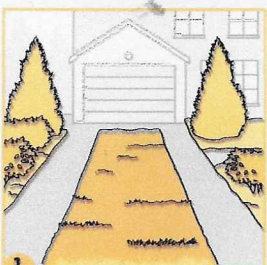
4 Install blinds, heat-resistant curtains, or films on windows.



5 Use portable or ceiling fans that increase air circulation.

## Step 3: Complete more complex upgrades

Work with a contractor, for over \$250



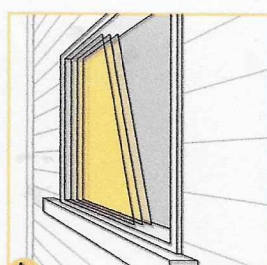
1 Convert paved areas to vegetation which absorbs less heat and more water.\*



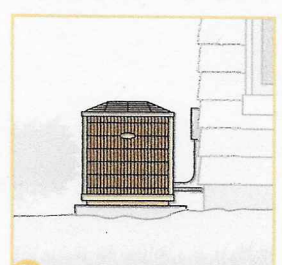
2 Install a green (vegetated) or reflective roof.\*



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](#).

