



# Tenant Rights: Home Heat

## Did you know?

*Living without enough heat in your home can be dangerous for your family. Landlords must provide heat and hot water. It is the law.*

## Action Plan

- ☐ Know your rights. Landlords must provide heat and make timely repairs to fix heating problems.
- ☐ In New York State, indoor temperatures must be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit between September 15<sup>th</sup> (or October 1<sup>st</sup> for some counties) and May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- ☐ Some counties have different nighttime temperature requirements. Check with your local housing agency.
- ☐ If you don't have enough heat:
  - ☐ Talk to your landlord or building staff.
  - ☐ Consider taking action with neighbors.
  - ☐ Contact your local housing department and/or tenant advocacy group for help.
- ☐ Never use an oven or cook stove to heat your home. If you are using space heaters for extra heat, it is important to use them safely.
- ☐ Dress infants in a wearable "sleep sack" blanket or footed pajamas to stay warm. Avoid using loose blankets as they are a suffocation risk.
- ☐ Make sure your carbon monoxide and smoke alarms are working. They can save your life.
- ☐ Be aware that although climate change is making the world warmer, extreme cold events are also more likely now.

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## Resources

If you are having trouble paying your heating bill, visit [ny.gov/services](https://www.ny.gov/services) and search “Apply for Heating and Cooling Assistance (HEAP).”

For NYS Heat Season Requirements visit:

- [hcr.ny.gov](https://hcr.ny.gov) and search “Heat and Hot Water”
- [odes.iccsafe.org](https://odes.iccsafe.org) and search “New York State Property Maintenance Code”

To learn more about using space heaters safely, visit [nyscheck.org/rx](https://nyscheck.org/rx) and click on “Space Heater Safety.”

For more resources on staying safe and warm in cold weather, visit [nyscheck.org/rx](https://nyscheck.org/rx) and click on “Cold Weather Safety.”

For more information visit: [nyscheck.org/rxs](https://nyscheck.org/rxs)