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## Home Radiator Heating [ Family Circle Archive ]

## Family Circle Articles

### Money Saver: Radiate More Heat

By Al Ubell & Label Shulman

From the article, "New, Easiest Home-Repair Guide Ever"  
Published September 1, 1981 - Family Circle Magazine

If your house has the old fashioned, free standing radiators, you're probably not getting full heating value from them. Radiators are non-discriminating; they send heat both into your room and out through the wall. And with today's high heating costs, it's too expensive to heat your entire neighborhood. Here's a simple way to get the most from the heat your radiators produce. The trick? Place a piece of aluminum foil behind each radiator: Reflective foil acts like a mirror; reflecting heat back into the room and reducing your energy expenses.



#### "Utensils" (Tools):

Scissors & Ruler

#### "Ingredients" (Materials):

Roll of wide, heavy-duty aluminum foil

Roll of aluminum-faced or colored duct tape, 2" wide

#### Instructions:

- Measure the height and width of the radiator.
- Roll out a section of aluminum foil to the size of the radiator's width. Roll additional sections to width size, until you have enough to fit the height measurement. (You can overlap the foil sections.) For very tall radiators, you may find it easier to use the aluminum foil sections vertically instead of horizontally.
- Tape all section joints together with duct tape. Ask a family member to hold the aluminum foil sections against the wall, directly behind the radiator. Note: The shiny side of the foil should face in toward the room, since this side is more reflective.
- Carefully and neatly tape a frame around the aluminum foil, making sure at least 1" of the duct tape is sticking to the wall.



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