SURVIVE WINTER TEMPS THE Smart WAY







Winter is upon us. With it are cold temperatures, heavy snowfalls and ice, and dry, chafing air. While parts of the country are lovely in winter, there's no escaping the fact that colder temperatures and bleak weather can take their toll.

Wintry weather also brings higher energy expenses. Home heating units often constantly pump out warm air to keep the house comfortable and at significant costs.

Thankfully, today's technology can help make winter more bearable. And utilizing MCG's **FAST**, **RELIABLE** Fiber Internet connects you to the most reliable network available and helps keep your home warm and snug.

Together with "smart technology," it all adds to saving money this winter and beyond! Below we highlight some of our favorite tech to help you get through the coldest months more comfortably. These unique items will make you and your loved ones feel cozier all winter, from Bluetooth devices to smart thermostats and even smart clothing.

SMART THERMOSTATS

One of the best upgrades you can make to your home this winter (or any season) is to install a smart thermostat that monitors and controls your heating and air conditioning. Smart thermostats can sense temperature changes in different rooms and can be easily programmed to get warmer or cooler at various times of the day.

Smart thermostats can connect to your home's Internet network, and through Bluetooth, to your smartphone and other devices for easy control.

Even more conveniently, many smart thermostats are controllable through voiceactivated technology like Alexa or the Apple Home Kit (using Siri). And according to the federal government's Energy Star program, which researches and provides consumers with reliable information on energy-efficient products and services, smart thermostats can save homeowners up to 30% on their energy bills.

Several solid options exist, including the Google Nest Learning Thermostat. We're impressed with Google's device because, over time, it learns your temperature preferences in each room and at different times of the day. Using a Smart Thermostat can more effectively heat your home than conventional thermostats—and because of its "smart" features and controls, it saves energy costs, too!

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SMART SPACE HEATERS

If you've reduced your energy bills by lowering your home's temperatures a tad, but find that you or others in your household still feel cold, consider adding a smart space heater to those chillier rooms. Smart space heaters are ideal when one or two people prefer the temps just a bit warmer than everyone else or when the temperatures drop drastically.

The Atomi Smart Ceramic Tower Space Heater is among the best options available. The Atomi can heat up to 750 square feet, perfect for small rooms.

Its safety features are also top-notch, including notifying your smartphone if the heater tips over. Then, you can easily shut it off from your phone. It's base sits evenly on multiple flooring types reducing the likelihood of tipping over at all.

You can also connect the Atomi Smart Space Heater to Alexa or Google Assistant for hands-free voice control through your home network.

SMART CLOTHING (JACKETS AND SHIRTS)

We recommend smart clothing for personal warmth, especially a jacket, and shirt.

Smart clothing safely and steadily heats your body in different zones that you can control. And you can even quickly recharge them when you're on the road with your car's charging ports.

We recommend the DEWBU Heated Jacket because of its multiple heating zones. It also comes with a convenient 12V Battery Pack that can keep it powered longer on the go.

Also, check out smart shirts from Venture Heat, which make different styles for women and men.

Bluetooth-enabled, you can control Venture Heat's smart shirts tentemperature settings with your smartphone, helping to fine-tune the perfect temperature to keep you feeling comfortably toasty on even the most frigid days!





SMART HATS

Growing up, you may remember hearing that you can lose nearly half your body heat just through the top of your head. While science has proven that that was not exactly accurate, you can still lose around 10% of your body heat off your head alone.

So grandma was right—you should keep your head covered in colder weather!

And believe it or not, there are smart hats available for you to get the most coverage for your noggin!

We love the iLive Beanie (not only because it's quite fashionable in a cute, wintry way) but because its Bluetooth-enabled speakers connect directly to your smartphone, doubling as a music-listening and hands-free calling device, too!

The internet and smart technology can't stop Mother Nature's annual blast of wintry weather. By utilizing these smart devices and a FAST, RELIABLE Fiber Internet connection like MCG's, we bet you'll cope better than you ever have before!



SIGN-UP TODAY FOR INTERNET MADE FOR WINTER 210 S D Street PO Box 1038 Oskaloosa, IA 52577 <u>mahaska.org</u> mcginfo@mahaska.org