



ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR HOME



GAIN MORE VALUE FROM YOUR ENERGY DOLLARS

If the words "saving energy" bring to mind turning down the thermostat and sacrificing comfort, forget that image. Today, energy efficiency means getting the most from every kilowatt-hour you purchase by using state-of-the-art technologies to provide home comfort.

Using a whole house approach to energy efficiency will:

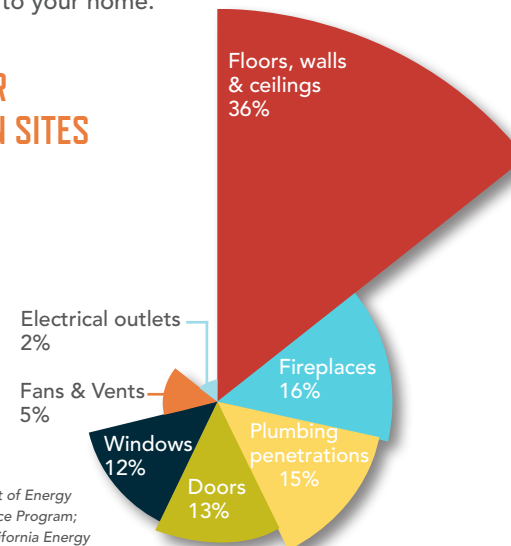
- cut your utility bills.
- increase your comfort.
- be good for the planet!

AIR LEAKS

Air infiltrates into your home through every hole, nook and cranny. About one-third of this air penetrates through openings in your ceilings, walls and floors. According to ENERGY STAR®, you can save 10 percent or more on your energy bills just by plugging air leaks in your home.

The average Iowa family spends more than half its annual household energy bill on heating and cooling. That's a significant number, but you can dramatically reduce these costs – up to 20 percent (according to ENERGY STAR) – by making some simple energy-saving weatherization and insulation improvements to your home.

PRIMARY AIR INFILTRATION SITES



Source: U.S. Department of Energy Weatherization Assistance Program; data courtesy of the California Energy Commission (2012)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
www.energysavers.gov



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GET COMFORTABLE



WEATHERIZATION

You can increase the comfort of your home and reduce your heating and cooling needs up to 20 percent by investing in proper insulation and weatherization products. Even the most energy-efficient heating and cooling system will not significantly reduce your energy bills if your ductwork leaks or your walls, attic, windows and doors are not well insulated.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the easiest and most cost-effective way to improve your home's energy efficiency is to add insulation to the attic.

To find out if you have enough attic insulation, measure the thickness of the existing material. If there is less than seven inches of fiberglass or rock wool, or six inches of cellulose, you could most likely benefit by adding more.

If your attic has ample insulation and your home still feels drafty, chances are you need to add insulation to the exterior walls as well.

HEATING AND COOLING

With about half of the energy used in most homes going toward heating, the type of heating and cooling equipment you use can have a big impact on your utility bill. Without a doubt, electric heat pumps are today's most energy-efficient home heating and cooling equipment. Heat pumps capture heat that occurs naturally in the atmosphere, ground or water to provide heating and cooling for your home.

Especially in moderate climates, heat pumps provide three times more heating than the equivalent amount of energy they consume in electricity. For more information about the benefits of heat pumps for year-round comfort, call your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative today to get information on making the appropriate choice for your home.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy

How Much Can You Really Save?*

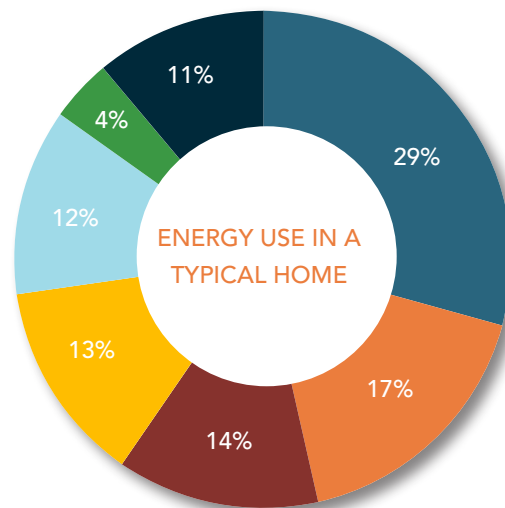
- Install low-e storm windows: 12-33% annually on heating & cooling bills
- Plant shade trees: 15-50% annually on air conditioning costs
- Seal air leaks: 10-20% annually on heating & cooling bills
- Replace 5 most used light fixtures/bulbs: 9% annually on electric bill
- Insulate water heater tank: 7-16% annually on water heating bill

WATER HEATING

After heating and cooling equipment, water heaters are the next highest source of energy use in the home. ENERGY STAR water heaters are an easy choice for energy savings, performance, and reliability. They use much less energy than standard models and can reduce your entire utility bill by 10-15 percent.

You can also lower water heating costs by using and wasting less hot water in your home. Repair leaks, install low-flow fixtures, and purchase an energy-efficient dishwasher and clothes washer to save even more.

Source: ENERGY STAR



- Heating
- Cooling
- Water Heating
- Appliances
- Lighting
- Electronics
- Other (includes dehumidifiers, external power adapters, and game consoles)

HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES

Older model refrigerators are another energy hog in your home. After heating, cooling and water heating equipment, your refrigerator uses more energy than any other single household appliance. Fortunately, the new ENERGY STAR models are as much as 40 percent more efficient than they were just a decade ago. Therefore, it may be wise to replace your old refrigerator even if it is operating trouble free.

Other appliances that have greatly increased energy-efficient technology are dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers. Front-loading ENERGY STAR clothes washers can cut energy use by up to 70 percent, compared to older top loading clothes washers, plus you save water and detergent.

Clothes dryers with sophisticated temperature and moisture sensors help reduce wrinkling, over-drying and wasted energy. Reduced operating costs in the long term more than make up for the slightly higher initial price tag of new energy-efficient appliances over their lifetimes.

