



AIR SEALING AND INSULATION

IMPROVE YOUR HOME'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Air sealing and insulating your home are often the most cost-effective ways to increase your home's comfort and energy efficiency. You can save up to 30 percent on heating and cooling costs by making proper air sealing and insulation improvements.

Air sealing benefits

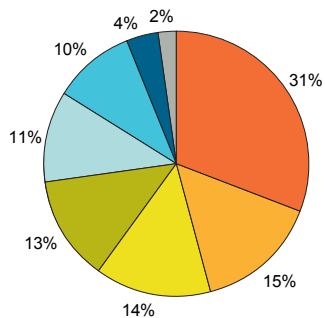
Save money and energy. If your house is leaky, you're losing heated and cooled air, making your home drafty and less comfortable. You're also wasting energy and money because your heating and cooling equipment work longer and harder.

Minimize moisture and indoor air problems. Air leaks in attics, ceilings, floors and walls carry heated air into cold places where condensation can form. Air leakage from garages, crawlspaces and other locations can also transport moisture, pollutants and odors into your home.

Proper ventilation after air sealing

Did you know excess moisture, odors and other pollutants can build up inside your home if it is not properly ventilated? Ask your contractor how you can breathe easier with an ENERGY STAR® qualified ventilation fan with a programmable timer.

TYPICAL AREAS OF
CONDITIONED AIR LOSS
THROUGHOUT HOMES



- Floors, walls and ceilings
- Ducts
- Fireplace
- Plumbing penetrations
- Doors
- Windows
- Fans and vents
- Electric outlets

AIR SEALING

What is air sealing?

Cracks and openings in your home leak conditioned air from inside, allowing outside air to enter. Properly sealing these openings can help reduce drafts, control moisture, reduce indoor air pollutants and improve overall comfort.

Air leakage testing

An Energy Trust trade ally contractor can test your home's air tightness. The contractor will perform a Blower Door test to identify air infiltration and leakage throughout your home, and recommend the appropriate balance of air sealing and ventilation for greater efficiency, comfort and safety. Once improvements are made, the contractor will re-test to confirm air leakage reduction.

INSULATION

What is insulation?

Insulation slows the transfer of heat through the ceilings, walls and floors of your home, and increases your comfort by maintaining a more constant, controlled temperature. Insulation should be installed in your attic, beneath floors and on duct systems.

Insulation is measured in R-values—a higher R-value being more effective—and comes in several types:

Batts—Batts are flexible and fit well between studs in walls or joists in ceilings and floors. Fiberglass batts are the most common type of insulation.

Loose-fill/blown-in—Loose-fill insulation is blown through a hose into attics and walls, completely filling spaces, and can be installed in hard-to-reach areas. Cellulose and fiberglass are the most common types of loose-fill insulation.

Foam—Foam insulation comes in rigid sheets or can be sprayed in. Foam can have a higher R-value per inch than batts and loose-fill, and can also be used to seal air leaks.

Insulation benefits

Properly installed insulation will help ensure your home stays warm in the winter and cool in the summer, as well as reduce energy costs. To maximize savings and comfort, Energy Trust recommends air sealing your home prior to installing insulation.

Energy Trust can help

To receive Energy Trust cash incentives for insulation:

- Contact an Energy Trust trade ally contractor, or any Oregon or Washington licensed and bonded contractor, about installing your insulation. Duct and wall insulation must be installed by a licensed contractor.
- Receive pre-approval from Energy Trust if you choose to install your own attic or floor insulation.



For more information on Energy Trust incentives or to find a contractor, visit www.energytrust.org or call **1.866.368.7878**.



DID YOU KNOW?

Only 20 percent of homes built before 1980 have appropriate insulation levels.

(U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Savers, Tips on Saving Energy & Money at Home)