

HOME

7 Ways to Improve Energy Efficiency

NewsUSA

(NU) - With Old Man Winter just around the corner, now is the time for homeowners to start considering how to make their abode more energy-efficient.

After all, an energy-efficient home not only saves money, it improves the comfort of the home environment.

Follow these tips by Johns Manville to ensure that your house is energy-efficient this winter, and always:

1. **Think Energy Savings.** Keeping the cool air in during summer and warm air in during winter will require less energy if your home is well-insulated. An energy audit can help you assess your home's efficiency and provide direction to improve that efficiency.

2. **When an Audit Is a Good Thing.** An energy audit includes checking for air leaks; inspecting heating and cooling equipment; checking light fixtures, appliances and electronics; and assessing insulation. It will help determine if your home is under-insulated or just not insulated properly, as is the case in many older homes. Each scenario can be easily remedied by adding more insulation or replacing the existing insulation, depending on the situation. For additional savings on energy upgrades, visit www.JM.com/rebatefinder to find tax incentives or rebates in your area.

3. **Reach Your R-Value.** R-Value is used to measure insulation performance – the higher the R-Value, the greater the insulating power. Factors that are considered in calculating R-Value include what part of the home you're assessing (walls, attic, floor or ceiling) and where you live. Use the R-Value map found on the Johns Manville website (jm.com) to calculate the R-Value your home needs for ultimate energy efficiency.

4. **Boost Real Estate Value.**



Investing in your home to increase its real estate value involves more than improving curb appeal. Increasing the R-Value of your home's insulation will help lower your energy costs, saving you money for as long as you live there. Plus, it will be a major selling point should you ever decide to move.

5. **Replacement vs. Improvement Options.** When your heating and cooling system isn't doing the job, it's easy to look at unit or window replacement as the answer. However, many times air temperature problems can be remedied in a less costly manner by conducting an energy audit and making the necessary changes to ensure that the walls, attic and ceiling insulation R-Values are up to par.

6. **Protect Expensive Equipment.** In extreme temperatures – whether in winter or summer – your heating and cooling systems are working extra hard to keep air temperature at ideal levels. An up-to-date R-Value will help reduce heating and cooling outputs, and can also extend the life of expensive heating and cooling equipment.

7. **Do It Yourself: Insulation Is Easier Than You Think.** Nearly any home insulation project can be accomplished with your own two hands and the right tools. Get started by visiting www.jm.com/diyvideos for tips, advice, and videos on a range of home insulation solutions.