
Introduction

Your Home EnergyCheckup Report

A comprehensive energy efficiency inspection was recently completed on your home. The inspection results, which provide valuable insights into your hidden energy costs and potential energy savings, have been compiled in this easy-to-read EnergyCheckup Report.

The heart of the report is Your EnergyCheckup At-a-Glance. Sections on how to interpret the results in the At-a-Glance table, why and how to make recommended improvements, applicable rebate opportunities, and additional energy efficiency tips are also included in this report.

If you have questions about your report, please contact us at Info@EnergyCheckup.com or 888-262-9009.

This report is based on information gathered from a variety of sources, which may include the home inspector, homeowner, potential homebuyer, utility company, or other party. In some cases, such as when areas of the home may have been inaccessible, default values are assigned based on building code and manufacturer data. The numbers contained in the report should be viewed as estimates only, whether referring to square footage, energy savings, or other listed values. When delivered in conjunction with a professional home inspection, this report should not be considered part of the home inspection report.

While every effort has been made to ensure reasonable accuracy, this report does not constitute a warranty, either expressed or implied, regarding the home's energy efficiency or cost of operation. While estimates are based on local climate and energy costs, individual usage patterns and weather variations can cause wide differences in utility expenses. The estimates given assume typical local weather and average settings for heating and cooling, hot water, etc.

Thank you for making the choice to get an EnergyCheckup. We wish you all the comfort and cost-efficiency of an energy-wise home.

How Do I Read My EnergyCheckup Report?

Your EnergyCheckup Report is designed to be easy to navigate and understand. The results of the energy audit of your home are outlined in the table entitled Your EnergyCheckup At-a-Glance.

"What does the At-a-Glance table mean?" section gives more detailed descriptions of each section of the At-a-Glance table.

For information about why and how to implement the Recommended Improvements for your home, go to "Recommended Improvements" section.

To find out about financing your energy improvements, go to "Find Financing" section. Other valuable links can also be found in the "HOW TO" section for each recommended improvement.

For additional tips on saving money, saving energy, and making your home more comfortable (all without spending a dime), go to "FREE Ways to Save Money & Energy" section.

For information about many other energy-responsible recommendations for your current home, a future home, or the homes of people you know, go to "Additional Improvements" section.

This EnergyCheckup™ Report may recommend a number of improvements that can be made to improve the energy efficiency of a home. For each of these improvements, there may be several rebate or incentive programs offered by other Public Goods Charge (PGC) funded programs. By using this EnergyCheckup Report to gain access to rebate and incentive programs, you agree not to use more than one PGC funded program to offset the cost of any one improvement. We appreciate this agreement to only utilize one PGC funded program per improvement. You are assisting the California Public Utilities Commission to allow as many people as possible to save energy in California.

You are not obligated to use any entity, product or service offered by the providers linked to the EnergyCheckup™ Website in order to implement the improvements recommended for your home.



YOUR ENERGYCHECKUP™ AT-A-GLANCE

CLIENT	Joe Brown				REPORT DATE	5th June 2006	
ADDRESS	123 Oak Street, Vacaville			STATE	Ca	ZIP CODE	95687
AUDIT BY	Tom Conlon, GeoPraxis				ENERGY AUDIT ID	75400090	
YEAR BUILT	1976	BEDROOMS	3	STORIES	1	SIZE	1,200 Sq.ft
UTILITIES	ELECTRIC		FUEL		WATER		
	Pacific Gas & Electric		Pacific Gas & Electric				

ENERGY AUDIT RESULTS

	AS AUDITED	IF ALL RECOMMENDATIONS COMPLETED
ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS	\$3838	\$2499
ESTIMATED COST OF ALL RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS & UPGRADES	-	\$6245
ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY SAVINGS	-	\$1339
HOME ENERGY RATING	69 out of 100	★★★
		79 out of 100
		★★★★+

	BENEFITS	ESTIMATED COSTS & SAVINGS
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BEST VALUE	 	SAVE MONEY	LESS POLLUTION	HEALTH/SAFETY	MORE COMFORT	ANNUAL SAVINGS	COST	COST IF FINANCED	PAYBACK (YEARS)	REBATES
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	RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS
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Costs include full purchase cost and installation.

1	Replace Incandescent Light Bulbs With Screw-in Compact Fluorescent Lights	✓	✓			\$68	\$35	\$3	0.5	✓
2	Insulate Water Heater Pipes	✓	✓			\$9	\$6	\$1	0.7	
3	Install Low-Flow Showerheads	✓	✓			\$21	\$15	\$1	0.7	
4	Install a Programmable Thermostat			✓	✓	\$128	\$162	\$14	1.3	✓
5	Get an Advanced HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Diagnosis & Tune-Up	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$426	\$780	\$67	1.8	
6	Install Kitchen Fluorescent Light Fixtures	✓	✓			\$40	\$92	\$8	2.3	✓
7	Reduce Air Infiltration and Drafts	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$215	\$600	\$52	2.8	
8	Install Compact Fluorescent Light Fixtures	✓	✓			\$29	\$135	\$12	4.7	✓
9	Install Insulation Package: Attic (R-30) + Wall (R-13)	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$299	\$2,864	\$246	9.6	✓

	RECOMMENDED UPGRADES
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Costs include only upgrade cost of choosing an energy efficient product over a standard product.

1	Upgrade to an Energy Star Dishwasher	✓	✓			\$40	\$1	\$0	0.0	✓
2	Upgrade to an Energy Star Refrigerator	✓	✓			\$113	\$75	\$6	0.7	✓
3	Upgrade to a High Efficiency Gas Water Heater	✓	✓			\$88	\$129	\$11	1.5	✓
4	Upgrade to an Energy Star Gas Furnace	✓	✓			\$485	\$730	\$63	1.5	✓
5	Upgrade to Energy Star Windows & Skylights	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$243	\$471	\$40	1.9	✓
6	Upgrade to an Energy Star Clothes Washer	✓	✓			\$53	\$150	\$13	2.8	✓



What Does The At-a-Glance Table Mean?

The EnergyCheckup Report quantifies key data about your home to provide you with a current energy profile of your home, as well as recommendations for improving your home's energy efficiency in ways that will save you money, conserve energy, and increase your comfort.

The At-a-Glance table summarizes the EnergyCheckup Report findings in the following way:

Recommended Improvements

The Recommended Improvements column lists the improvements that were identified, after a detailed analysis of your home's energy profile, as the most potentially beneficial and cost-effective for your particular home. Only improvements that can deliver a cost savings over the lifetime of the improvement have been recommended.

Recommended Upgrades

The Recommended Upgrades column lists items that, when you decide to replace them, would benefit from being upgraded to energy-efficient models rather than standard models. For example, when you decide it's time for a new dishwasher, a new energy-efficient model would save you enough money to pay for the difference between its cost and the cost of a less efficient, "cheaper" model. For these upgrades, the cost shown is the incremental cost of choosing the energy-efficient model, not the total cost of the item. In all cases, only upgrades that have been identified as cost-effective for your home have been recommended.

Best Value

The Best Value column sorts your recommended improvements in order of cost-effectiveness, with the first item in the column offering the greatest return on your investment.

Benefits

In addition to saving you money, many of the recommended improvements deliver important benefits in terms of health, safety, comfort, and pollution reduction. The benefits that apply to each of the improvements recommended for your home are noted in the columns under the Benefits heading in the table.

Estimated Costs & Savings

The columns under the Estimated Costs & Savings heading break down the financial information relating to each of your recommended improvements. These estimated numbers are calculated based on typical local weather conditions and energy usage patterns.

Annual Savings

The Annual Savings column indicates the amount of money you can potentially save on energy each year if the recommended improvement is implemented in your home. The number is an estimate derived from extensive studies conducted by energy efficiency experts and utilities, adjusted according to your home's individual energy profile.

Cost

The Cost column estimates the average cost of implementing the recommended improvement or upgrade in your home. For the Recommended Improvements, the cost shown includes the full price of the item as well as typical installation costs.

For the Recommended Upgrades, the cost shown is the incremental cost of choosing an energy efficient product over a standard product. For example, if you were replacing your dishwasher, a new ENERGY STAR dishwasher might cost \$50 more than a new standard dishwasher. This upgrade cost of \$50 would be the number in the Cost column, rather than the full cost of the dishwasher plus installation.

Rebates and other special offers are often available to further reduce the cost of energy-efficient improvements. These reductions are not incorporated into the Cost column.

Cost If Financed

The Cost If Financed column calculates what it would cost you annually to obtain financing for a 30-year loan at a 7.75 percent fixed interest rate. If you obtain an Energy Efficient Mortgage, the improvement could qualify you for a larger loan. In these cases, the lender assumes that energy efficiency improvements will reduce your monthly utility bills, leaving more income available for loan payments. Energy Efficient Mortgages are available through several different lenders. For more information about this and other financing issues, go to Find Financing.

Savings With All Improvements

The Savings With All Improvements column calculates the total estimated savings that would be realized if you implemented all of the recommended improvements on your list. This score does not necessarily equal the sum of the individual savings from each improvement because some of the improvements may work in combination to deliver new savings. For example, extra insulation will reduce the need for heat, which in turn will impact the demands made on a new ENERGY STAR furnace. This energy "synergy" is taken into account when calculating the Savings With All Improvements total.

Home Energy Ratings

The Home Energy Rating System (HERS) is an industry-standard scoring method that measures the energy efficiency of your home on a scale from 0 to 100. The rating focuses on heating, cooling and water heating; it does not rate the efficiency of appliances, fuel type (gas or electric), or occupant behavior. HERS ratings can currently be used to "stretch" mortgage. In the future, they may be the basis for judging qualification for energy-based tax credits.

The higher your score on the nationally-recognized HERS scale, the more energy-efficient your home. A score of 80 is considered average for a house approximately the same size and shape as yours. For every 5% reduction in energy use compared to the average, your score increases by one point. For example, an ENERGY STAR labeled home has a minimum rating of 86, which means it is 30 % (6 points x 5%) more energy-efficient than the average home. Conversely, if your home is rated 76, that means it is 20% less energy-efficient than the average home.

The table shows your current Home Energy Rating, as well as your Home Energy Rating after making the recommended improvements. Remember that a one point increase in your rating translates into a 5% increase in energy efficiency in your home.

Payback

The Payback column shows the number of years it will take to payback the cost of the improvement. For improvement recommendations, this number is the total cost of the improvement divided by the annual savings. For upgrade recommendations, this number is the upgrade cost of the improvement divided by annual savings. The best value for your money is always listed first.

Rebates

The Rebates column overviews the possible rebates for which you may be eligible. This column is a quick summary of all rebates that are detailed on the Find Rebates page. Since most rebates have expiration dates, you should review these as soon as possible. Rebates make your improvements even more cost effective.

Recommended Improvements:

Replace Incandescent Light Bulbs With Screw-in Compact Fluorescent Lights

WHY TO Replace Incandescent Light Bulbs With Screw-in Compact Fluorescent Lights

Almost all incandescent light bulbs in existing hardwired fixtures can be replaced with screw-in CFL bulbs. New fluorescent technology gives you all of the long-lasting, energy-saving benefits of fluorescent light—without subjecting you to the harsh light tones characteristic of the old fluorescent technology. Now, fluorescent lights can be as soft and pleasing to the eye as incandescent lights. The real difference is that fluorescent light bulbs last up to 13 times longer than incandescent light bulbs and use one-fourth of the energy to produce the same amount of light. Fluorescent light also produces less heat, so it is less of a fire and burn hazard. Most manufacturers of incandescent light fixtures have corresponding styles that use fluorescent bulbs. When replacing incandescent bulbs with fluorescent bulbs, make sure to choose the appropriate wattage. Most CFL bulb manufacturers have wattage recommendations on the packaging. The cost of replacing your incandescent lighting can be recouped by energy savings in two years or less depending on hours of use.

HOW TO Replace Incandescent Light Bulbs With Screw-in Compact Fluorescent Lights

- Look for ENERGY STAR bulbs carrying the label shown above.
- Read the label to ensure compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) work with the fixture. Most CFLs can be used in any light fixture that uses standard incandescent bulbs, however some will not work with dimmable lights.
- Look at the wattage of the incandescent light bulbs you are replacing. Most CFLs have manufacturer recommendations on the best wattage to replace a current incandescent bulb.
- Replace standard incandescent light bulbs yourself with CFLs. These can be found at any hardware store or home improvement store.
- To find out more about CFLs, visit ENERGY STAR® Product Finder: CFLs.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 EnergyStar® Store Locator

Find stores in your area that carry Energy Star products. You can also search for online and mail order retailers.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=store.store_locator

Insulate Water Heater Pipes

WHY TO Insulate Water Heater Pipes

The water heater is one of the major energy users in the average home. Many hot water heaters waste energy because the hot water “thermosiphons” into the cold water line. By insulating at least the first five feet of the hot and cold water lines that go into and out of your water heater, you can cut back on the amount of heat “lost” by a typical water heater. This means that your water heater will have to do less work and use less energy to do its job. Installing hot water heater pipe insulation is one of the smartest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to conserve energy in your home. It usually pays for itself in reduced water heating bills in just a few months.

HOW TO Insulate Water Heater Pipes

- Purchase one of two basic types of water heater pipe insulation at a local hardware store:
 - Tape style insulation which is applied by wrapping and overlapping around the pipe.
 - Tubular style insulation which fits over the pipe. Bends in the pipes can be accommodated by cutting notches in the tubular insulation at the bend locations.
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- Visit the following website for information on how to do it yourself: Do It Yourself Network: Preparing for Winter Weather
- Insulate the hot and cold water lines to and from the water heater for the first five feet or more of tank pipe.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 Do It Yourself Network: Preparing for Winter Weather

Instructions on insulating your water heater and water heater pipes.

<http://www.diy.net.com/DIY/article/0,2058,600,00.html>

Install Low-Flow Showerheads

WHY TO Install Low-Flow Showerheads

Replacing an old showerhead with a low-flow showerhead saves in two ways: you use less water and you use less energy to heat water. Since heating water is one of the biggest uses of energy in most households, low-flow showerheads can make a significant difference in energy savings. Low-flow showerheads are easily installed in minutes by the average person using a simple wrench. The cost of a low-flow showerhead can usually be recouped in energy savings within eight to twelve months.

HOW TO Install Low-Flow Showerheads

- Look for showerheads that are rated at 2.5 gpm (gallons per minute) or less. This information is usually stamped somewhere on the body of the showerhead.
- Remove the old showerhead using a simple wrench fitted snugly to the base of the showerhead. Most shower pipes have a threaded end that allows you to simply unscrew the old showerhead and screw on the new one. Wrap Teflon tape around the threads of the shower pipe to ensure a leak-proof seal.
- For more information on how to install a showerhead, visit the website at Home and Garden Television: Replace a Showerhead.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 Home and Garden Television: Replace a Showerhead

Home and Garden Television: Replace a Showerhead

http://www.hgtv.com/cr/cda/article_print/1,1250,HGTV_3778_1391068,00.html

Install a Programmable Thermostat

WHY TO Install a Programmable Thermostat

An automatic set-back or programmable thermostat is an affordable way to save money on heating and cooling, without compromising the comfort of your home. With a programmable thermostat, you can control the temperature setting based on the unique requirements of the people in your home for heating and cooling 24 hours a day. A programmable thermostat will operate accurately and automatically, ensuring that the heater or air conditioner is turned off when you go to work and turned on again before you get back home. The timer can be set to turn on the heat in cooler months an hour before you wake up. By maintaining the temperature you want when you want it, a programmable thermostat can significantly reduce the number of hours of wasted heating and cooling, at the same time that it makes your home even more responsive to your needs. Used wisely, a programmable thermostat can easily recoup its cost in a year or two.

HOW TO Install a Programmable Thermostat

- Look for an ENERGY STAR programmable thermostat carrying the label shown above.
- Select a unit that automatically controls the temperature and has these features:
 - Ability to store and repeat multiple daily settings, such as when to turn on or off, and the temperature settings you select
 - Memory to store 4 or more temperature settings per day
 - Functionality to adjust as the outside temperature changes
- To find out more about programmable thermostats, including where to buy them, visit ENERGY STAR® Product Finder: Programmable Thermostats.
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- Visit the following websites for information on how to do it yourself:
 - Do It Yourself Network: Installing a Programmable Thermostat
 - Do It Yourself Network: Digital Programmable Thermostat
 - Do It Yourself Online: Installing a Programmable Thermostat
- Set the thermostat to accommodate your lifestyle requirements.
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 EnergyStar® Store Locator

Find stores in your area that carry Energy Star products. You can also search for online and mail order retailers.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=store.store_locator

2 Do It Yourself Network: Digital Programmable Thermostat

Step-by-step instructions in installing a programmable thermostat.

<http://www.diy.net.com/DIY/article/0,2058,7293,00.html>

3 Contractors State License Board

The Contractors State License Board licenses and regulates contractors in the construction industry in CA. Get information about contractors, license status, and disciplinary actions against contractors. Phone:(800) 321-2752.

<http://www.cslb.ca.gov/consumers/>

4 Find a Contractor: League of California Homeowners

The League of California Homeowners is a non-profit organization which certifies contractors only after confirming that their business is legitimate, and they have a reliable track record. Phone (800) 692 4663. e-mail: lchome@homeowners.org.

http://www.homeowners.org/cgi-bin/searchndisplay.pl?_target=homeowners.recommended.2

Get an Advanced HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Diagnosis & Tune-Up

WHY TO Get an Advanced HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Diagnosis & Tune-Up

Conducting an advanced HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Tune-Up is the best way to ensure the peak performance of your system and to prolong the life of expensive equipment. During an advanced HVAC Tune-Up, the technician will inspect your entire system for proper airflow, test the ducts for leakage, and seal them with proper materials. By sealing the ducts in your home, you can cut heating and cooling energy use by an average of 10-20%. The technician will also check and adjust the refrigerant charged; clean the condenser coil of your air conditioning unit and/or heat pump (if one is present); and check the boiler of your furnace. More than 60% of air-conditioned homes have an improperly charged air conditioning unit and ducts that leak excessively. These two problems in combination can significantly and unnecessarily increase power consumption in your home. This crucial maintenance will keep your system running efficiently, reduce your energy costs, and increase the comfort of your home.

HOW TO Get an Advanced HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Diagnosis & Tune-Up

- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- Ask the contractor to check the air-conditioning refrigerant charge and adjust if necessary; clean the unit's condenser coils; inspect the entire system for proper airflow; test the ducts for leaks; and seal up any leaks found.
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

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http://www.homeowners.org/cgi-bin/searchndisplay.pl?_target=homeowners.recommended.2

3 Find Financing and Contractors: Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA)

The Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA) is a non-profit, California based trade association. This financing program is dedicated to the construction and installation of energy efficient home improvements. Phone (916) 609-5300.

<http://www.egia.com/>

4 Find an Energy Efficiency Mortgage Lender

Find mortgage lenders who are certified by the California Department of Real Estate and offer energy mortgages.

<http://www.natresnet.org/dir/lenders/California.htm>

5 Find a Contractor: CBPCA

California Building Performance Contractors Association--trained Contractors. Call 888-352-2722 to find a contractor.

<http://www.cbPCA.org/contact.html>

6 Find an HVAC Contractor: CheckMe!

Find Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning contractors who are specially trained to provide a "CheckMe!" engineering evaluation to ensure your air conditioner is operating at peak performance.

<http://www.proctoreng.com/checkme/find.html>

7 Carrier Aeroseal, LLC: Duct-Sealing Contractors

Aeroseal's aerosol duct sealing technology internally seals leaks in air distribution ducts by injecting a fog of aerosolized sealant particles into a pressurized duct system. Phone: 1-800-772-6459.

http://www.aeroseal.com/any_01.html

8 Certified Green Building Contractors

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) offers Certified Green Building Professional status to licensed building professionals who complete a course on applying green building methods and materials.

<http://www.sfbanari.com>

9 Find a Contractor: Tune-up and RCA verify your heating/cooling system

Studies show that over 50% of air conditioners are improperly installed. Find a specially trained contractor who uses the Verified Refrigerant Charge and Airflow (RCA) System to ensure that your HVAC system is running at peak performance.

<http://www.verify-rca.com/>

Install Kitchen Fluorescent Light Fixtures

WHY TO Install Kitchen Fluorescent Light Fixtures

New fluorescent technology gives you all of the long-lasting, energy-saving benefits of fluorescent light—without subjecting you to the harsh light tones characteristic of the old fluorescent technology. Now, fluorescent lights can be as soft and pleasing to the eye as incandescent lights. The real difference is that fluorescent light bulbs last up to 13 times longer than incandescent light bulbs and use one-fourth of the energy to produce the same amount of light. Fluorescent light also produces less heat, so the kitchen stays cooler. When replacing incandescent fixtures with fluorescent fixtures, make sure to choose the appropriate wattage. Most CFL bulb manufacturers have wattage recommendations on the packaging. The cost of installing new fixtures can be recouped by energy savings within one to four years depending on hours of use.

HOW TO Install Kitchen Fluorescent Light Fixtures

- Look for an ENERGY STAR fixture carrying the label shown above.
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor with extensive knowledge of electrical wiring to replace fixtures.
- To find out more about energy-efficient light fixtures, including where to buy them, visit ENERGY STAR® Product Finder: Lighting.
- For the very skilled handyperson, visit the following websites for information on how to do it yourself:
 - Do It Yourself Network: Update Overhead Light Fixture
 - Do It Yourself Online: Changing Light Fixtures
 - Hometime.com: Installing Light Fixtures
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 EnergyStar® Store Locator

Find stores in your area that carry Energy Star products. You can also search for online and mail order retailers.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=store.store_locator

2 Contractors State License Board

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<http://www.egia.com/>

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Find mortgage lenders who are certified by the California Department of Real Estate and offer energy mortgages.

<http://www.natresnet.org/dir/lenders/California.htm>

Reduce Air Infiltration and Drafts

WHY TO Reduce Air Infiltration and Drafts

Reducing air leakage is a simple home improvement that delivers big benefits, including: reduced energy costs for heating and cooling; a more comfortable home without drafts; less noise and pollution coming in from the outside. Weather stripping sealant, foam, tape, or gasket can be used to close leaks in doors, doorjamb, windows, ceilings, walls, and floors. Even if your home already has weather stripping, hidden leaks around pipes, wires, and vents are common, but are typically easy to seal. The materials are inexpensive, the work is easy enough for most do-it-yourselfers, and the rewards are immediate. Air sealing pays for itself quickly in terms of energy savings and increased comfort.

HOW TO Reduce Air Infiltration and Drafts

- Purchase weather stripping materials at hardware stores and home improvement centers.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.

Related Links:

1 Do It Yourself Online: Tips on Insulating Your Home

This article discusses all the areas in your home to seal and add weather-stripping.

http://www.diyonline.com/servlet/GIB_BaseT/diylib_article.html?session.docid=1381

2 Contractors State License Board

The Contractors State License Board licenses and regulates contractors in the construction industry in CA. Get information about contractors, license status, and disciplinary actions against contractors. Phone:(800) 321-2752.

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Install Compact Fluorescent Light Fixtures

WHY TO Install Compact Fluorescent Light Fixtures

Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) lights last up to 13 times longer than incandescent light bulbs and use one-fourth of the energy to produce the same amount of light. New fluorescent technology gives you all of the long-lasting, energy-saving benefits of fluorescent light—without subjecting you to the harsh light tones characteristic of the old fluorescent technology. Now, fluorescent lights can be as soft and pleasing to the eye as incandescent lights. Many stylish designs and lighting options are available for rooms such as bathrooms. When replacing incandescent bulbs with fluorescent bulbs, make sure to choose the appropriate wattage. Most CFL bulb manufacturers have wattage recommendations on the packaging. The cost of installing new fixtures can be recouped by energy savings within one to four years depending on hours of use.

HOW TO Install Compact Fluorescent Light Fixtures

- Select the type of attic insulation you prefer: loose-fill or blown-in material, or rolls of blanket/batt insulation. Choose insulation rated R-30 or higher.
- For loose fill or blown-in insulation, use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- For blanket/batt insulation, find a contractor or visit your local home/hardware center.
- For information on how to install attic insulation yourself, visit these websites:
 - Do It Yourself Network: Installing Fiberglass Insulation
 - Do It Yourself Online: Insulating an Unfinished Attic
 - The Old House Web: Why and What You Should Insulate (link)
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 EnergyStar® Store Locator

Find stores in your area that carry Energy Star products. You can also search for online and mail order retailers.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=store.store_locator

2 Do It Yourself Network: Update Overhead Light Fixture

Step-by-step instructions on replacing a light fixture.

<http://www.diy.net.com/DIY/article/0,2058,671,00.html>

3 Contractors State License Board

The Contractors State License Board licenses and regulates contractors in the construction industry in CA. Get information about contractors, license status, and disciplinary actions against contractors. Phone:(800) 321-2752.

<http://www.cslb.ca.gov/consumers/>

4 Find a Contractor: League of California Homeowners

The League of California Homeowners is a non-profit organization which certifies contractors only after confirming that their business is legitimate, and they have a reliable track record. Phone (800) 692 4663. e-mail: lhome@homeowners.org.

http://www.homeowners.org/cgi-bin/searchndisplay.pl?_target=homeowners.recommended.2

5 Find Financing and Contractors: Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA)

The Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA) is a non-profit, California based trade association. This financing program is dedicated to the construction and installation of energy efficient home improvements. Phone (916) 609-5300.

<http://www.egia.com/>

6 Find an Energy Efficiency Mortgage Lender

Find mortgage lenders who are certified by the California Department of Real Estate and offer energy mortgages.

<http://www.natresnet.org/dir/lenders/California.htm>

Install Insulation Package: Attic (R-30) + Wall (R-13)

WHY TO Install Insulation Package: Attic (R-30) + Wall (R-13)

By increasing the amount of insulation in your attic and walls, you can dramatically reduce the amount of heated or cooled air escaping from the living areas of your home. This will make your home more comfortable year-round, and reduce your heating and cooling bills, often significantly.

There are two main options for attic insulation: loose-fill or blown-in material, which usually requires a contractor; or blanket/batt insulation, which is sold in rolls and can be installed on a do-it-yourself basis or by a contractor. When insulating the attic, check for seal leaks from the air-conditioned or heated part of the house. Pay special attention to attic hatches, recessed ceiling light fixtures, pipe penetrations, or other visible holes and cracks through which air can escape. Seal these leak areas with caulking or expanding foam.

Wall insulation can be a very effective way to decrease your energy costs and improve the comfort of your home if you live in a colder climate. If you live in a warmer climate, wall insulation is only cost-effective for certain types of walls:

- Wood-frame walls
- Walls without insulation
- Walls on which exterior siding is being added
- Masonry walls when exterior siding is being installed or other major remodeling is being done

Blowing insulation into wood-frame wall cavities reduces heat transfer and results in energy savings. When adding or replacing wood frame wall siding, adding a layer of rigid foam insulation under the siding is easy and extremely cost-effective. Under the insulation, air-resistant housewrap can also be added to reduce air infiltration. An exterior insulating foam system (EIFS) covered by stucco, brick, or siding finishes can also be applied to add even greater energy savings. Only contractors with expertise in insulation should do this work.

The extra cost of attic and wall insulation pays off in energy savings within five to ten years depending on your climate.

HOW TO Install Insulation Package: Attic (R-30) + Wall (R-13)

ATTIC INSULATION:

- Select the type of attic insulation you prefer: loose-fill or blown-in material, or rolls of blanket/batt insulation. Choose insulation rated R-30 or higher.
- For loose fill or blown-in insulation, use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- For blanket/batt insulation, find a contractor or visit your local home/hardware center.
- For information on how to install attic insulation yourself, visit these websites:
 - Do It Yourself Network: Installing Fiberglass Insulation
 - Do It Yourself Online: Insulating an Unfinished Attic
 - The Old House Web: Why and What You Should Insulate (link)

WALL INSULATION:

- If you have a wood-frame house, ask the contractor about blown-in insulation
- If you are adding or replacing siding, ask the contractor about adding a layer of rigid foam insulation under the siding. An air-resistant housewrap under the insulation to reduce air infiltration is also recommended.
- If you have masonry or block walls, ask a contractor about applying exterior insulating foam, covered by stucco, brick, or siding finishes.
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 Financial incentives & Information about Insulation

SimplyInsulate

<http://www.SimplyInsulate.com>

2 Do It Yourself Network: Installing Fiberglass Insulation

Do It Yourself Network: Installing Fiberglass Insulation

<http://www.diy.net.com/DIY/article/0,2058,7281,00.html>

3 Contractors State License Board

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<http://www.egia.com/>

6 Find an Energy Efficiency Mortgage Lender

Find mortgage lenders who are certified by the California Department of Real Estate and offer energy mortgages.

Recommended Upgrades:

Upgrade to an Energy Star Dishwasher

WHY TO Upgrade to an Energy Star Dishwasher

An ENERGY STAR dishwasher will save you at least 10% in energy costs when compared to a standard dishwasher. There is usually little or no extra cost when purchasing an energy-efficient ENERGY STAR model.

HOW TO Upgrade to an Energy Star Dishwasher

- Look for an ENERGY STAR dishwasher carrying the label shown above.
- To find out more about energy efficient dishwashers, including where to buy one, visit ENERGY STAR® Product Finder: Dishwashers.
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor if you need installation help.
- For information on how to install a dishwasher yourself, go to the following website: This Old Appliance: How to install a Dishwasher.
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 EnergyStar® Store Locator

Find stores in your area that carry Energy Star products. You can also search for online and mail order retailers.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=store.store_locator

2 This Old Appliance: How to Install a Dishwasher

This Old Appliance: How to Install a Dishwasher

<http://www.thisoldappliance.com/dishinst.html>

3 Contractors State License Board

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<http://www.cslb.ca.gov/consumers/>

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<http://www.egia.com/>

Upgrade to an Energy Star Refrigerator

WHY TO Upgrade to an Energy Star Refrigerator

An ENERGY STAR refrigerator will save you at least 10% in energy costs when compared to a standard refrigerator. If your current refrigerator is over 15 years old, a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator can reduce your energy costs by 50%. A new ENERGY STAR refrigerator costs slightly more than a conventional model; however, the extra cost is usually paid off in improved energy conservation and decreased energy bills within three to five months.

HOW TO Upgrade to an Energy Star Refrigerator

- Look for an ENERGY STAR refrigerator carrying the label shown above.
- To find out more about energy efficient refrigerators, including where to buy one, visit ENERGY STAR® Product Finder: Refrigerators.
- Dispose of your old refrigerator in a manner that doesn't release any ozone-damaging chemicals. Ask your local appliance dealer to tell you how.
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor if you need installation help.
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost. Check the website of your utility for rebates that will pay to dispose of your old refrigerator.

Related Links:

1 EnergyStar® Store Locator

Find stores in your area that carry Energy Star products. You can also search for online and mail order retailers.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=store.store_locator

Upgrade to a High Efficiency Gas Water Heater

WHY TO Upgrade to a High Efficiency Gas Water Heater

A gas water heater is one of the top energy users in the home because the water must be kept hot at all times to be ready at a moment's notice. That means that the water in a water heater cools and is reheated over and over again throughout the day, using energy even when the water is not being used. Newer water heaters mitigate the demands of that constant heating process by minimizing heat loss through the use of insulation; heating the water more efficiently. Tankless models eliminate heat loss through the tank. One of these newer, more efficient gas water heaters will pay for itself several times over during the life of the unit through energy savings and lower heating bills.

HOW TO Upgrade to a High Efficiency Gas Water Heater

- Look for a high-efficiency gas water heater with an Energy Factor (EF) of 0.6 or higher. This information can be found on the Energy Guide Sticker pasted to the side of the water heater.
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- For the very skilled handyperson, visit the following website for information on how to do it yourself: Home and Garden Television: Replace a Water Heater
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 Home and Garden Television: Replace a Water Heater

Home and Garden Television: Replace a Water Heater

http://www.hgtv.com/cr/cda/article_print/1,1250,HGTV_3779_1383574,00.html

2 Contractors State License Board

The Contractors State License Board licenses and regulates contractors in the construction industry in CA. Get information about contractors, license status, and disciplinary actions against contractors. Phone:(800) 321-2752.

<http://www.cslb.ca.gov/consumers/>

3 Find a Contractor: League of California Homeowners

The League of California Homeowners is a non-profit organization which certifies contractors only after confirming that their business is legitimate, and they have a reliable track record. Phone (800) 692 4663. e-mail: lchome@homeowners.org.

http://www.homeowners.org/cgi-bin/searchndisplay.pl?_target=homeowners.recommended.2

4 Find Financing and Contractors: Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA)

The Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA) is a non-profit, California based trade association. This financing program is dedicated to the construction and installation of energy efficient home improvements. Phone (916) 609-5300.

<http://www.egia.com/>

5 Find an Energy Efficiency Mortgage Lender

Find mortgage lenders who are certified by the California Department of Real Estate and offer energy mortgages.

<http://www.natresnet.org/dir/lenders/California.htm>

Upgrade to an Energy Star Gas Furnace

WHY TO Upgrade to an Energy Star Gas Furnace

If your furnace is old, worn out, inefficient, or significantly oversized, the best solution may be to replace it—preferably with a highly efficient ENERGY STAR Gas Furnace. When purchasing a new furnace, look for an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) rating of 90 or higher. Older furnaces can have AFUEs as low as 60-70, which translates to significantly higher energy bills. Particularly in climates with high heating demands, the extra cost of purchasing a more efficient furnace will be more than offset by the resulting energy savings.

HOW TO Upgrade to an Energy Star Gas Furnace

- Look for an ENERGY STAR furnace carrying the label shown above.
- Look for a furnace with an AFUE of 90 or higher. This information can be found on the yellow EnergyGuide label pasted on the product.
- To find out more about energy efficient furnaces, including where to buy one, visit ENERGY STAR® Product Finder: Furnaces.
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 EnergyStar® Store Locator

Find stores in your area that carry Energy Star products. You can also search for online and mail order retailers.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=store.store_locator

2 Contractors State License Board

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<http://www.egia.com/>

5 Find an Energy Efficiency Mortgage Lender

Find mortgage lenders who are certified by the California Department of Real Estate and offer energy mortgages.

<http://www.natresnet.org/dir/lenders/California.htm>

6 Find a Contractor: CBPCA

California Building Performance Contractors Association--trained Contractors. Call 888-352-2722 to find a contractor.

<http://www.cbpc.org/contact.html>

7 Certified Green Building Contractors

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) offers Certified Green Building Professional status to licensed building professionals who complete a course on applying green building methods and materials.

<http://www.sfbanari.com>

8 Find a Contractor: Properly install your new heating system

Find a specially trained contractor to ensure that your new furnace is installed properly so it can run at peak performance.

<http://www.verify-rca.com/>

Upgrade to Energy Star Windows & Skylights

WHY TO Upgrade to Energy Star Windows & Skylights

New ENERGY STAR windows and skylights add value to your home in many ways. Replacing older windows and skylights can save you money, lower your heating and cooling costs, increase the comfort of your home, make your home more attractive, reduce the noise and pollution entering your home from the outside, and reduce your maintenance costs. Insulated vinyl, or vinyl, fiberglass, or wood frames with thermal breaks are all designed to reduce window heat and cooling leakage. In colder climates, low-e windows with insulated frames keep the cold air out, letting in visible light while blocking heat loss. Windows with invisible gas filler (such as argon or krypton) between double panes further increase insulating capabilities. In temperate and other moderate climate zones with high heating and cooling costs, low-e windows with solar control (“spectrally sensitive”) features control the amount of heat from sunlight and balance heating and cooling. In warmer climates, solar control windows can be retrofitted with shade screens to further reduce heat generated by sunlight to keep cooling costs down. New windows with tilt-sash designs can also reduce the cost of maintenance like painting and cleaning. They can also protect valuable home furnishings by blocking ultraviolet light that fades fabrics, dries out fine woods, and harms photos and other items. The relatively small incremental cost of ENERGY STAR compliant windows as compared to the cost of standard aluminum dual pane windows makes ENERGY STAR windows a wise choice.

HOW TO Upgrade to Energy Star Windows & Skylights

- Look for ENERGY STAR windows carrying the label shown above.
- Check the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) sticker for the following window properties:
 - U-factor
 - Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC):
- Select windows with two panes of glass (dual pane), a low-e coating, and non-metal frames of wood or vinyl. Space between the panes of glass may be filled with air; gas fillers such as argon or krypton are even more efficient.
- For more information, visit:
 - ENERGY STAR Product Finder: Windows
 - Efficient Windows Collaborative website
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- Visit the following websites for information on how to do it yourself:
 - Do It Yourself Network: Replacement Window, Part 1
 - Do It Yourself Network: Replacement Window, Part 2
 - Hometime.com: Installing and Replacing Windows
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 EnergyStar® Store Locator

Find stores in your area that carry Energy Star products. You can also search for online and mail order retailers.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=store.store_locator

2 Efficient Windows Collaborative

The Efficient Windows Web Site is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Windows and Glazings Program in collaboration with members of the Efficient Window Collaborative. Information on how to select the appropriate windows.

<http://www.efficientwindows.org/>

3 Hometime.com: Installing and Replacing Windows

Step-by-step instructions on removing an old window and replacing it with a new one.

http://www.hometime.com/Howto/projects/window/win_4.htm

4 Contractors State License Board

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<http://www.cslb.ca.gov/consumers/>

5 Find a Contractor: League of California Homeowners

The League of California Homeowners is a non-profit organization which certifies contractors only after confirming that their business is legitimate, and they have a reliable track record. Phone (800) 692 4663. e-mail: lchome@homeowners.org.

http://www.homeowners.org/cgi-bin/searchndisplay.pl?_target=homeowners.recommended.2

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<http://www.egia.com/>

7 Find an Energy Efficiency Mortgage Lender

Find mortgage lenders who are certified by the California Department of Real Estate and offer energy mortgages.

<http://www.natresnet.org/dir/lenders/California.htm>

Upgrade to an Energy Star Clothes Washer

WHY TO Upgrade to an Energy Star Clothes Washer

An ENERGY STAR clothes washer will save you at least 10% in energy costs when compared to a standard clothes washer. The incremental cost of purchasing an ENERGY STAR washer rather than a conventional model will be repaid in a short time by the energy savings.

HOW TO Upgrade to an Energy Star Clothes Washer

- Look for an ENERGY STAR clothes washer carrying the label shown above.
- To find out more about energy efficient clothes washers, including where to buy one, visit ENERGY STAR® Product Finder: Clothes Washers.
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor if you need installation help.
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 EnergyStar® Store Locator

Find stores in your area that carry Energy Star products. You can also search for online and mail order retailers.

http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=store.store_locator

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<http://www.egia.com/>



Additional Improvements

All of the Recommended Improvements and Recommended Upgrades in your EnergyCheckup Report meet certain strict criteria for cost savings. However, there are many other energy-wise improvements that may make sense for reasons that are not solely economic. For example, certain improvements that make your home more comfortable may be worthwhile even though they don't save you money.



Other improvements may not apply to your current home, but will apply to a future home, a second home, or to the homes of people you know.

This section contains information about these additional energy-wise improvements.

Get a Basic HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Diagnosis & Tune-Up

WHY TO Get a Basic HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Diagnosis & Tune-Up

Basic HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Tune-Ups are a very quick and cost-effective way to reduce energy consumption. More than 60% of air-conditioned homes have an improperly charged air conditioning unit that can consume significantly more power than necessary. A Basic HVAC Diagnostic & Tune-Up ensures that the air conditioning unit and heating unit is running at top efficiency. The refrigerant charge is checked and adjusted if required; the condenser coils are cleaned on air conditioners and heat pumps; and the furnace boiler is checked. This basic maintenance will prolong the life of the system, save energy, reduce your costs, and make your home more comfortable.

HOW TO Get a Basic HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Diagnosis & Tune-Up

- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- Ask the contractor to check the air-conditioning refrigerant charge and adjust if necessary.
- Ask the contractor to clean the unit's condenser coils.
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

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4 Find an Energy Efficiency Mortgage Lender

Find mortgage lenders who are certified by the California Department of Real Estate and offer energy mortgages.

<http://www.natresnet.org/dir/lenders/California.htm>

5 Find a Contractor: CBPCA

California Building Performance Contractors Association--trained Contractors. Call 888-352-2722 to find a contractor.

<http://www.cbPCA.org/contact.html>

6 Find an HVAC Contractor: CheckMe!

Find Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning contractors who are specially trained to provide a "CheckMe!" engineering evaluation to ensure your air conditioner is operating at peak performance.

<http://www.proctoreng.com/checkme/checkme.html>

7 Carrier Aeroseal, LLC: Duct-Sealing Contractors

Aeroseal's aerosol duct sealing technology internally seals leaks in air distribution ducts by injecting a fog of aerosolized sealant particles into a pressurized duct system. Phone: 1-800-772-6459.

http://www.aeroseal.com/any_01.html

8 Certified Green Building Contractors

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI)offers Certified Green Building Professional status to licensed building professionals who complete a course on applying green building methods and materials.

<http://www.build-green.org/green/index.cfm?fuseaction=locate>

9 Find a Contractor: Tune-up and RCA verify your heating/cooling system

Studies show that over 50% of air conditioners are improperly installed. Find a specially trained contractor who uses the Verified Refrigerant Charge and Airflow (RCA) System to ensure that your HVAC system is running at peak performance.

<http://www.verify-rca.com/>

Test and Seal Ducts

WHY TO Test and Seal Ducts

The majority of existing homes have ducts that are excessively leaky. Having a trained expert seal those ducts is a cost-effective way to reduce your energy bills for heating and/or cooling by 20-30%. Reducing the amount of heated and cooled air that leaks from your ducts will not only increase the efficiency of your heating/cooling systems, it will also make your home more comfortable.

HOW TO Test and Seal Ducts

- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- Ask the contractor to test the ducts for leaks and seal up any leaks found.
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

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5 Find a Contractor: CBPCA

California Building Performance Contractors Association--trained Contractors. Call 888-352-2722 to find a contractor.

<http://www.cbPCA.org/contact.html>

6 Find an HVAC Contractor: CheckMe!

Find Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning contractors who are specially trained to provide a "CheckMe!" engineering evaluation to ensure your air conditioner is operating at peak performance.

<http://www.proctoreng.com/checkme/find.html>

7 Carrier Aeroseal, LLC: Duct-Sealing Contractors

Aeroseal's aerosol duct sealing technology internally seals leaks in air distribution ducts by injecting a fog of aerosolized sealant particles into a pressurized duct system. Phone: 1-800-772-6459.

http://www.aeroseal.com/any_01.html

8 Find a Contractor: Seal your ducts and RCA verify your cooling system

Find a specially trained contractor who uses the Verified Refrigerant Charge and Airflow (RCA) System to seal your ducts and ensure that your HVAC system is running at peak performance.

<http://www.verify-rca.com/>

Increase your Attic Insulation

WHY TO Increase your Attic Insulation

By increasing insulation in the attic, you can dramatically reduce the amount of heated or cooled air escaping from the living areas of your home. This will make your home more comfortable year-round, and reduce your heating and cooling bills. There are two main options for attic insulation: loose-fill or blown-in material, which usually requires a contractor; or blanket/batt insulation, which is sold in rolls and can be installed on a do-it-yourself basis or by a contractor. When insulating the attic, check for and seal leaks from the air-conditioned or heated part of the house. Pay special attention to attic hatches, recessed ceiling light fixtures, pipe penetrations, or other visible holes and cracks through which air can escape. Look for "IC Rated" recessed can fixtures that can be covered with insulation. Seal all leak areas with caulking or expanding foam. The extra cost of attic and wall insulation makes your house quieter and pays off in energy savings within five to ten years depending on your climate.

HOW TO Increase your Attic Insulation

- Select the type of attic insulation you prefer: loose-fill or blown-in material, or rolls of blanket/batt insulation. Choose insulation rated R-30 or higher.
- For loose fill or blown-in insulation, use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- For blanket/batt insulation, find a contractor or visit your local home/hardware center.
- For information on how to install attic insulation yourself, visit these websites:
 - Do It Yourself Network: Installing Fiberglass Insulation
 - Do It Yourself Online: Insulating an Unfinished Attic
 - The Old House Web: Why and What You Should Insulate (link)
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 Financial incentives & Information about Insulation

Simply Insulate

<http://www.SimplyInsulate.com>

2 Do It Yourself Network: Installing Fiberglass Insulation

Step-by-step instructions for installing attic insulation.

<http://www.diy.net.com/DIY/article/0,2058,7281,00.html>

3 Contractors State License Board

The Contractors State License Board licenses and regulates contractors in the construction industry in CA. Get information about contractors, license status, and disciplinary actions against contractors. Phone:(800) 321-2752.

<http://www.cslb.ca.gov/consumers/>

4 Find a Contractor: League of California Homeowners

The League of California Homeowners is a non-profit organization which certifies contractors only after confirming that their business is legitimate, and they have a reliable track record. Phone (800) 692 4663. e-mail: lchome@homeowners.org.

http://www.homeowners.org/cgi-bin/searchndisplay.pl?_target=homeowners.recommended.2

5 Find Financing and Contractors: Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA)

The Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA) is a non-profit, California based trade association. This financing program is dedicated to the construction and installation of energy efficient home improvements. Phone (916) 609-5300.

<http://www.egia.com/>

6 Find an Energy Efficiency Mortgage Lender

Find mortgage lenders who are certified by the California Department of Real Estate and offer energy mortgages.

<http://www.natresnet.org/dir/lenders/California.htm>

Increase your Wall Insulation

WHY TO Increase your Wall Insulation

In colder climates, wall insulation can be a very effective way to decrease your energy costs and improve the comfort of your home. In warmer climates, wall insulation is only cost-effective for certain types of walls:

- Wood-frame walls
- Walls without insulation
- Walls on which exterior siding is being added
- Masonry walls when exterior siding is being installed or other major remodeling is being done

Blowing insulation into wood-frame wall cavities reduces heat transfer and results in energy savings. When adding or replacing wood frame wall siding, adding a layer of rigid foam insulation under the siding is easy and extremely cost-effective. Under the insulation, air-resistant housewrap can also be added to reduce air infiltration. An exterior insulating foam system (EIFS) covered by stucco, brick, or siding finishes can also be applied to add even greater energy savings. Only contractors with expertise in EIFS insulation should do this work. The extra cost of wall insulation pays off in energy savings within five to fifteen years depending on your climate.

HOW TO Increase your Wall Insulation

- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- If you have a wood-frame house, ask the contractor about blown-in insulation
- If you are adding or replacing siding, ask the contractor about adding a layer of rigid foam insulation under the siding. An air-resistant housewrap under the insulation to reduce air infiltration is also recommended.
- If you have masonry or block walls, ask a contractor about applying exterior insulating foam, covered by stucco, brick, or siding finishes.
- For more information about insulating your home, visit: [The Old House Web: Why and What You Should Insulate](#) (link)
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 Financial incentives & Information about Insulation

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5 Find an Energy Efficiency Mortgage Lender

Find mortgage lenders who are certified by the California Department of Real Estate and offer energy mortgages.

<http://www.natresnet.org/dir/lenders/California.htm>

Install a Pool Cover

WHY TO Install a Pool Cover

By installing a pool cover on your swimming pool, you can save 50 to 70 percent in pool heating costs and reduce water evaporation by 30 - 50%. In addition to reducing heat and water usage, pool covers also make pool maintenance easier by minimizing the amount of debris that gets into the water and reducing chemical use. Covers extend the swimming season by reducing nighttime heat loss and keeping the pool temperature warmer year-round. Some cover types can also help to prevent accidental drowning. The cost of pool covers varies greatly, from under \$100 to over \$1000. Pool covers are most energy-efficient in cold climates, however the benefits apply in all climates.

HOW TO Install a Pool Cover

- Compare pool covers to select the one that best suits your budget and requirements. Most pool stores can order the cover you select if they don't stock it.
- Use the cover consistently, placing it on the pool whenever the pool isn't in use.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost of the cover.

Install Sink Faucet Aerators

WHY TO Install Sink Faucet Aerators

Sink faucet aerators reduce the amount of water flowing from your faucet without impacting your comfort and without requiring major plumbing alterations. Aerators, which are simple to install, save water and reduce the energy used to heat water previously wasted at the sink. Kitchen sink aerators may have additional features such as the ability to alternate between a single stream and a shower stream.

HOW TO Install Sink Faucet Aerators

- Aerators can be found in hardware stores or home improvement stores.
- Look for an aerator with a flow of 2.2 gallons per minute (gpm) or less.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Install Low-flow Toilets

WHY TO Install Low-flow Toilets

Toilets use most of the water in the average home. Low-flow toilets, which today perform as well as traditional models, use significantly less water (only 1.6 gallons of water per flush) without impacting your quality of life in any way. Low-flow toilets are now available in a wide variety of designs, with a wide range of features. In addition, many water companies offer ongoing rebates for low-flow toilets. By replacing your current toilets with low-flow toilets, you can save money, save water, and contribute to a more sustainable environment.

HOW TO Install Low-flow Toilets

- Look for a low-flow toilet that uses 1.6 gallons of water per flush or less.
- Ask about these other features when making a purchasing decision:
 - Operational noise
 - Bowl cleaning capability
 - Water surface area (The more water left standing in the bowl after a flush cycle, the less cleaning will be required.)
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified contractor.
- Visit the following websites for information on how to do it yourself:
 - Do It Yourself Network: Replacing a Toilet
 - Do It Yourself Network: Install a New Toilet
 - Hometime.com: Setting a Toilet
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 Do It Yourself Network: Replacing a Toilet

Step-by-step instructions on how to replace a toilet.

<http://www.diy.net.com/DIY/article/0,2058,8987,00.html>

2 Contractors State License Board

The Contractors State License Board licenses and regulates contractors in the construction industry in CA. Get information about contractors, license status, and disciplinary actions against contractors. Phone:(800) 321-2752.

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4 Find Financing and Contractors: Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA)

The Electric & Gas Industries Association (EGIA) is a non-profit, California based trade association. This financing program is dedicated to the construction and installation of energy efficient home improvements. Phone (916) 609-5300.

<http://www.egia.com/>

Plant Trees

WHY TO Plant Trees

Well-chosen and well-placed trees can make your home more valuable, more energy-efficient, and more comfortable. Trees can reduce your cooling bills by shading your home and property, protecting it from the full heat of the sun. They can also lower your heating bills by blocking the wind and limiting the “heat island” effect common to more exposed homes. Trees convert carbon dioxide to oxygen and absorb some pollutants, creating a healthier atmosphere around your home. Trees can also add to the privacy and aesthetic charm of your home, often increasing the value of your property as well. The type of trees you plant will depend on your location and your preferences. Younger, smaller trees are less expensive; larger trees provide more immediate gratification at a greater initial cost.

HOW TO Plant Trees

- Consult tree books, local nurseries, or an arborist to learn about the types of trees that thrive in your area.
- When choosing a tree, consider these questions:
 - How big and fast will it grow?
 - Will the roots interfere with walls, sidewalks, or other structures?
 - How much maintenance will it require?
 - What is its lifespan?
 - Will it block my view or anyone else’s?
 - Will it provide maximum shade in summer, but still let in light in winter?
- Use the Related links below to locate a qualified landscaper.
- Visit the following websites for information on how to do it yourself:
 - Do It Yourself Network: Planting Trees Properly
 - Backyard Gardener: How to Plant Trees
- Go to [Find Financing](#) for information about lenders who may have special Energy Efficient Mortgages available to fund your improvements.
- Go to [Find Rebates](#) for special offers and rebates to help reduce the cost.

Related Links:

1 Do It Yourself Network: Planting Trees Properly

Step-by-step instructions on properly planting trees.

<http://www.diy.net.com/DIY/article/0,2058,813,00.html>

FREE Ways to Save Money & Energy

Heating and Cooling Tips

- Set your A/C thermostat to 78°F when you're home, and 85°F (or turn it off completely) when you're away. You will save 1-3% on your energy bill for each degree the thermostat is set above 72°F.
- Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. Your home will not cool any faster at the lower setting, but your energy expenses will be higher.
- Substitute fans for air conditioners on milder summer days; this can reduce energy use by 60% or more.
- Set thermostats to 68°F in winter when you're home, and 55°F when you go to bed or leave the house. Programmable thermostats can do this automatically.
- Close drapes and windows during sunny summer days and after sunset in winter.

Laundry Tips

- Do your laundry using the warm or cold water setting. Switching the washer temperature setting from hot to warm can reduce a load's energy use in half. Always use cold water to rinse clothes.
- Line dry clothes whenever possible and save up to 5%.
- When you need to use the dryer, run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting, and clean the clothes dryer lint trap after each use to save 5%.

Dishwasher Tips

- Run your dishwasher only when it's full. Turn off the dry cycle and air-dry dishes instead to save 1%.
- Avoid using the "rinse hold" option on your dishwasher, which uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each time you use it.

Water Tips

- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). This not only saves energy, it prevents scalding accidents from water that is unnecessarily hot. (insert link)
- Take more showers than baths. Baths use 15 to 25 gallons of hot water; a 5-minute shower uses less than 10 gallons. (insert link)
- Repair leaky faucets and toilets. An average of 5% of water "usage" is actually leakage

Cooking Tips

- Use glass or ceramic pans in your oven. This enables you to turn down the oven temperature by about 25°F while cooking food at the same rate.
- Avoid opening the oven door while cooking. Each time the door is opened, the temperature inside the oven drops by 25°F. Use a clock or timer instead.

Electricity Tips

- Turn off appliances, lights, and equipment when not in use to save 2%.
- Unplug electronic devices and chargers when not in use to save 1-2%. Most new electronics use electricity even when switched "off" Turn computers and printers off at the power strip.
- Unplug or recycle the spare refrigerator to save \$150 per year.

Pool Tips

- Reduce the operating time of your pool filter and automatic cleaning sweep to 4-5 hours. You'll save 1-2% per hour of reduction.

Sources for FREE Ways to Save Money & Energy: California Energy Commission; The Department of Energy; Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; The Rocky Mountain Institute; and the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.



Find Rebates

Rebates and special offers are sometimes available to offset the costs of energy efficiency improvements. Only current rebates that apply to the improvements recommended for your home are listed here.

Miscellaneous Rebates & Incentives

PG&e Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) Discounts

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

Save \$1-\$10 per item at participating stores when you buy PG&E-discounted ENERGY STAR lighting products. Look for the PG&E label on the package. No paperwork or application is needed.

For more information

Link: <http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/lighting/index.html>

Phone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Fluorescent Fixture Discounts

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

Save \$1-\$10 per fixture at participating stores when you buy PG&E-discounted ENERGY STAR lighting products. Look for the PG&E label on the package. No paperwork or application is needed.

For more information

Link: <http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/lighting/index.html>

Phone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Fluorescent Fixture (Kitchen) Discounts

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

Discounts available for ENERGY STAR lighting products at participating stores. Save \$1-\$10. No paperwork is necessary.

For more information

Link: <http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/lighting/index.html>

Phone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Furnace Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

You may be eligible for a \$200 - \$400 rebate by purchasing and having a licensed heating, ventilation and air conditioning (C-20) contractor install a qualifying ENERGY STAR® central natural gas furnace (>90 AFUE) during the promotion period, or until allocated funds are depleted.

For more information

Link: http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/gas_furnaces/index.html

Phone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Appliance Recycling Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

PG&E offers a \$35 payment for qualifying refrigerators or freezers (>10 cu. ft.), plus \$25 more for a qualifying room AC unit picked up at the same time. Call to schedule a pick up.

For more informationLink: http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/refrigerator_recycling/index.htmlPhone: 1 (800) 299-7573

PG&e Clothes Washer Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

Receive a \$35 or \$75 rebate by purchasing and installing a qualified (ENERGY STAR labeled clothes washer (not all ENERGY STAR clothes washers qualify).

For more informationLink: <http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/washers/index.html>Phone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Dishwasher Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

Receive a \$30 or \$50 rebate by purchasing and installing a qualified (>0.62 EF) ENERGY STAR labeled dishwasher (Not all ENERGY STAR dishwashers qualify for this rebate).

For more informationLink: <http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/dishwashers/index.html>Phone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Programmable Thermostat Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2008

PG&E no longer offers a rebate for this product. But visit the PG&E website for information about why you should consider installing a qualified ENERGY STAR® labeled programmable thermostat in your home.

For more informationLink: <http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/thermostats/index.html>Phone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Window Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2008

PG&E no longer offers a rebate for windows installed in single family homes. But they still encourage replacement windows with a Solar Heat Gain Coefficient of 0.32 or less and a U-Factor of 0.35 or less. These figures are indicated on the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) label. High performance windows can help you reduce energy costs, condensation and color fading due to sunlight, and increase the comfort in your home.

For more informationLink: <http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/windows/index.html>Phone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Insulation Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

Receive a rebate of \$0.15 per square foot by purchasing and installing attic or wall insulation in your home.

For more informationLink: <http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/insulation/index.html>Phone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Insulation Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

Receive a rebate of \$0.15 per square foot by purchasing and installing attic or wall insulation in your home.

For more informationLink: <http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/insulation/index.html>Phone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Insulation Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

Receive a rebate of \$0.15 per square foot by purchasing and installing attic or wall insulation in your home.

For more informationLink: <http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/insulation/index.html>Phone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Water Heater Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

PG&E offers a \$30 rebate for qualifying (>0.62EF) natural gas storage water heaters (>0.93EF if electric). Must be >30 gallons (tankless do NOT qualify).

For more informationLink: http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/gas_electric_storage/index.htmlPhone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Forced-Air Furnace Motor Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

PG&E offers a \$50 rebate for forced air heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems that use a "Variable Speed" fan motor. (Central Valley only - climate zones 11, 12 and 13).

For more informationLink: http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/vsm_air_handler_system/index.htmlPhone: 1 (800) 933-9555

PG&e Whole House Fan Rebates

Expiration date: Dec 31 2006

PG&E offers a \$100 rebate for installing a whole house fan (1000 CFM minimum). A whole house fan is more economical and energy saving than a conventional central air conditioner. Attic fans do not qualify for this rebate. One per address only.

For more informationLink: http://www.pge.com/res/rebates/whole_house_fans/index.htmlPhone: 1 (800) 933-9555

For more information or questions please call EnergyCheckup at 1-888-262-9009.



Find Financing

Certain lenders offer special mortgages known as Energy Efficient Mortgages (EEM). The advantage of an Energy Efficient Mortgage is that it may enable you to qualify for a larger loan. This is based on the lender's assumption that improved energy efficiency will result in lower utility bills, which in turn will make more of your income available for mortgage payments. For these loans, lenders assume that energy efficient improvements are free of yearly maintenance costs.

The information provided in the table below may help you to qualify for an Energy Efficient Mortgage. Contact individual lenders for more information.

Energy Efficient Item	Expected Yearly Savings	Est. Installed Cost	Expected Useful Life (yrs)	Present Value of Savings
Get an Advanced HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Diagnosis & Tune-Up	\$426	\$780	10	\$2,991
Upgrade to an Energy Star Gas Furnace	\$485	\$1,460	25	\$5,647
Install a Programmable Thermostat	\$128	\$162	12	\$1,016
Install Insulation Package: Attic (R-30) + Wall (R-13)	\$299	\$2,864	25	\$3,490
Upgrade to Energy Star Windows & Skylights	\$243	\$7,328	25	\$2,831
Upgrade to a High Efficiency Gas Water Heater	\$88	\$450	15	\$798
Insulate Water Heater Pipes	\$9	\$6	15	\$78
Install Low-Flow Showerheads	\$21	\$15	10	\$150
Install Compact Fluorescent Light Fixtures	\$29	\$135	17	\$284
Install Kitchen Fluorescent Light Fixtures	\$40	\$92	17	\$388
Replace Incandescent Light Bulbs With Screw-in Compact Fluorescent Lights	\$68	\$35	9	\$442
Reduce Air Infiltration and Drafts	\$215	\$600	30	\$2,674
Upgrade to an Energy Star Clothes Washer	\$53	\$600	15	\$486
Upgrade to an Energy Star Dishwasher	\$40	\$300	15	\$367
Upgrade to an Energy Star Refrigerator	\$113	\$850	15	\$1,030