



# DIY HOME ENERGY AUDIT

Your home's envelope consists of its outer walls, windows, doors, and other openings. A well-sealed envelope, the right amount of installation, and efficient lighting and appliances can reduce your energy usage - and in turn, your energy bills.

Here are a few tips to conduct a "do-it-yourself" energy audit. When walking around your home, keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and the problems you found. This list will help you prioritize your energy efficiency upgrades.

## Locate and Seal Air Leaks

First, make a list of obvious air leaks. The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 10% to 20 per year.

## Consider Ventilation

When sealing a home, be aware of the danger of indoor air pollution and combustion appliance "backdrafts." Backdrafting is when combustion appliances and exhaust fans compete for fresh air. In homes where a fuel is burned for heating, be certain the appliance has adequate air supply.

## Check Insulation Levels

Heat loss through the floor, ceiling, and walls in your home could be large if the insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum.

When your house was built, the builder likely installed the amount of insulation recommended at that time. Given today's energy prices (and future prices that will probably be higher), the level of insulation might be inadequate, especially if you have an older home.

Find instructions on how to check your home's insulation levels at <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/adding-insulation-existing-home>.

## Inspect Heating and Cooling Equipment

Inspect heating and cooling equipment annually, or as recommended by the manufacturer. If you have a forced-air furnace, you should replace your filters every 1-3 months.

## Lighting

On average, energy for lighting accounts for about 10% of your electric bill. Replace inefficient bulbs with LED bulbs.

## Appliances and Electronics

The appliances and electronics you choose and how you use them affect your energy use and costs. Calculate your estimated electricity consumption at <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/estimating-appliance-and-home-electronic-energy-use>.

A few tips to save electricity include:

- Unplugging an item when not in use to prevent phantom loads.
- Changing the settings or using the item less often.
- Purchasing a new, more efficient product.
- Utilizing smart home energy management systems to monitor and control energy consumption.

## Your Whole-House Plan

After you know where your home is losing energy, make a plan by asking yourself a few questions:

- Where are your greatest energy losses?
- How long will it take for an investment in energy efficiency to pay for itself?
- Do the energy-saving measures provide additional benefits that are important to you?
- How long do you plan to own your current home and how much value do you want to get out of your home?
- Can you do the job yourself or do you need to hire a contractor?
- What is your budget?
- How much time do you have for maintenance and repairs?

For more energy savings tips, visit our website [byelectric.coop/energy-tips-and-resources](http://byelectric.coop/energy-tips-and-resources). If you have questions, call our office at (605) 463-2507