

GUIDE:

Home Weatherization

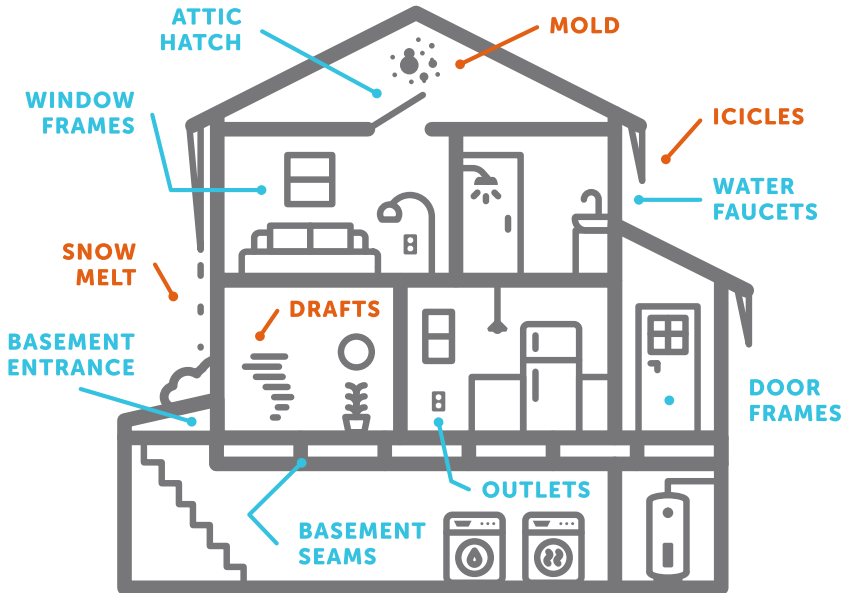
Learn about the benefits of
air sealing and insulation



Efficiency
Vermont



How do I know if my home is losing heat?



Some common problem areas in your home:

EXTERIOR

- Door frames
- Window frames
- Outdoor water faucets
- Plumbing, fuel or electrical penetrations

INTERIOR

- Outlets and switches
- Attic entrance
- Air ducts
- Basement seams
- Recessed lights

DRAFTS

You might see your drapes move or even feel a breeze cross your home. If cool air leaks in while your heat is on, you can be sure that energy is being wasted. Drafts make your home feel uncomfortable and indicate that there are holes between the inside and outside of the home that should be sealed.

MOLD

Improper installation of insulation causes moisture from the lower levels of the home to rise and get trapped in the attic. This moisture feeds mold growth which can lead to poor indoor air quality and health issues such as asthma, and rot. Mold is also a sign of improper ventilation.

SNOW MELT

An unconditioned attic should be the same temperature as the outdoors. But if you notice lines or patterns in the snow melt off your roof, or snow melting in some areas and not others, it can indicate that your attic is warmer than the exterior, and is not properly sealed and insulated from the living space.

ICICLES

Icicles often indicate that heat is escaping through the roof of your home. Water can build up behind the icicle, which can rot the wood and cause significant and costly damage.

The solution to these problems:



AIR SEALING



INSULATION



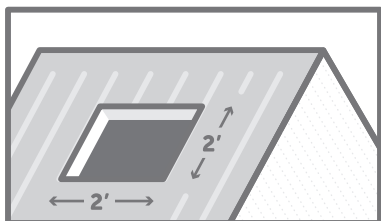


Air sealing

Find the root cause—start with air leaks

A good home weatherization strategy is like clothing yourself for outdoor activities. When you “zip up” your jacket you help keep your body heat from escaping. Air sealing is essentially “zipping up” your home.

The most common air leakage points are in your attic and basement.



The average home has enough cracks and openings, that when combined, equate to a two-foot-square hole. Leaving them unsealed is like leaving a window open all winter long.



Our home now tends to stay at a livable 65 degrees, even with the heat way down. Kevin and I feel that our place is truly buttoned up.

This project is one of the best gifts we have given to each other.

—Jessica,
Bennington
Homeowner





Insulation

Insulation: a sweater under your windbreaker

Any surface in your home or building that separates the interior from the exterior should be insulated after being properly air sealed. The most common insulation improvements occur in the attic or basement of a home. While no two homes are the same, more insulation is typically better.

We always recommend air sealing before adding insulation. When paired together, the average household that heats with oil can save \$500 or more every year in heating costs.

Insulation comes in a variety of forms, including traditional rolls, spray cellulose, and foam. Choosing the right kind of insulation depends on where you're adding it, the desired R-value, and your budget. An Efficiency Excellence Network contractor can best advise you on the right choice for your home.



I am totally in love with my 'new' home! It holds heat even during the coldest winter nights, it has great air quality, and feels cozier than before.

**—Kelsey,
Guilford
Homeowner**





Windows

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, leaky windows can account for 10–25% of your heating bill. Most homeowners assume that they need to replace their windows to solve this problem. In most cases, a partial replacement and repairs can be significantly more cost effective than replacement.

Most windows can be repaired

If your existing windows still function—and your goal is to improve efficiency—consider upgrading their weather-stripping and latching hardware first or adding Low-E storm windows. Windows in disrepair often look worse than they are. Start with easy, low-cost updates:

- Replace cracked panes and glazing compound
- Add weather-stripping and window locks
- Fill in unused pulley cavities in older windows
- Hang energy-efficient window treatments
- Install Low-E storm windows

Determine if you need to replace

There are many reasons to replace your windows. They can improve your home's appearance and reduce noise, however, a common misconception is that they will save you money.

While it is true that new windows are energy efficient, due to their high cost, you will spend more on replacement than you will save on energy. That is why we recommend exploring weatherization work or adding storm windows before considering replacement.

If your interest in replacement is primarily efficiency, then investment in new windows may only be worth it if your existing windows are not salvageable.

Weatherization benefits



Be more comfortable

Making your home energy-efficient will transform the way you feel inside your home and you'll find yourself doing less to keep your home cozy.



Save money on energy bills

On average, homeowners reduce their energy bills by about 20%, which is hundreds of dollars each year.



A healthier you

Airborne particles cause poor air quality which can aggravate asthma, allergies, and other health problems. Controlling air leakage and updating ventilation improves the quality of the air your family breathes.



A solution for every price point

Do-it-yourself with simple projects

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Low cost / limited savings on your energy bills

Small, simple steps can have a significant impact on how you feel in your home, but may not save you a lot on your energy bills. Whether you're a DIY expert or someone just starting out, Efficiency Vermont provides easy-to-understand resources designed to advise on how to properly air seal and insulate various parts of a home.

Visit [efficiencyvermont.com/diy](https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/diy) for more information.

WATCH VIDEOS FEATURING:

- How to insulate your attic
- How to air seal your home
- How to choose and install storm windows





Work with a professional to make a big impact

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Larger investment / significant savings on your energy bills

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® projects use a whole-home approach to provide the most savings and greatest comfort. Start with an Efficiency Excellence Network contractor. Only these contractors can:

- Offer 50% off your project costs, up to \$4,000
- Offer Efficiency Vermont 0% interest loan options
- Conduct energy loss tests that identify and prioritize improvements
- Ensure health and safety by testing air quality and whether your heating system is emitting carbon monoxide

Visit [efficiencyvermont.com/weatherize](https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/weatherize) for more information.





Efficiency Vermont financing

The most expensive thing you can do, is nothing

The Heat Saver Loan is a fast, easy, and flexible way to finance home weatherization and heating improvements.

HIGHLIGHTS*

- 0% interest financing for low-moderate income Vermonters
- Finance 100% of your project, up to \$40,000
- Can be processed in as little as two business days
- Low-to-no closing costs (can be rolled into loan), loan terms of up to 15 years
- Refinance existing Heat Saver loans at new lower interest rates (if applicable)

INTEREST RATES**

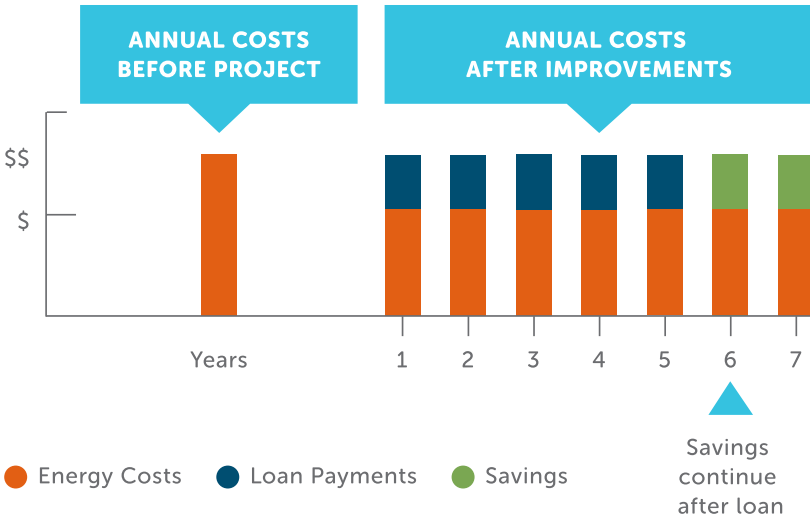
Household income	Loan term: 5 years or less	Loan term: between 5 and 10 years	Loan term: between 10 and 15 years
Below \$60,000	0%	1.99%	2.99%
Between \$60,001 - \$90,000	0%	3.99%	4.99%
Over \$90,000	4.99%	5.99%	6.99%

**Based on Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® project costs from January 2016-2019. Average savings are for a home heating with oil. Actual cost, savings, and cash flow scenarios vary by individual project.*

***Income guidelines apply.*

Sample financing scenario

You can breakdown project costs into simple monthly payments. Most Vermonters can complete a comprehensive weatherization project for around \$60 a month or less. For more information on financing visit efficiencyvermont.com/HeatSaver.



AVERAGE SAVINGS: \$500 PER YEAR

Let's get started

Efficiency Vermont can help you review your bills, identify opportunities, and connect you with a qualified contractor.

Call (888) 921-5990 or visit efficiencyvermont.com/weatherize



**You deserve a comfortable home.
Efficiency Vermont can help.**

Let's get started

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