



Remodeling your home

FACT SHEET

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APARTMENT & CONDO
EFFICIENCY SERVICES



ENERGY STAR®
PRODUCTS



HOME PERFORMANCE
WITH ENERGY STAR



WISCONSIN
ENERGY STAR HOMES

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Focus on Energy,™ call
800.762.7077 or visit
focusonenergy.com

Your home is your haven. You want it to be attractive, safe, comfortable and easy to maintain. If you have an older home, remodeling can help achieve these goals. The process can be very rewarding – if you remodel the smart way. Making energy efficiency improvements can turn any remodeling project into a whole-house success. Here's how:

INSULATE AND SEAL

Insulate your walls and attic

Insulation is the most effective way to save energy. The leakier your house, the greater the benefits of insulating and air sealing. More than half of Wisconsin homes have inadequate insulation. While remodeling, take advantage of your open walls and ceilings to add insulation. Insulate attic areas to at least R-38.

* Download the fact sheet [The Basics of Insulating Your Home](#) from focusonenergy.com.

Seal attic bypasses

Ice dams, the ridges of ice that build up on roof eaves, can cause costly structural damage to your home. Attic bypasses, the hidden pathways that allow warm air to penetrate the attic and melt snow on the roof, should be sealed to help keep the roof cold and prevent ice dams. While you are replacing your roof or siding, take advantage of the increased access to these areas to seal leaky pathways. As you remove old siding, seal all penetrations into the wall from the outside and add a layer of foam insulation beneath the new siding. Insulate wall cavities as well.

* Download the fact sheet [Preventing Ice Dams](#) from focusonenergy.com.

REPLACE APPLIANCES

Look for the ENERGY STAR⁷ label when shopping for new appliances. The ENERGY STAR label is awarded to products that meet or exceed established criteria for energy efficiency and are as much as 10 percent to 50 percent more efficient than their conventional counterparts.

Refrigerators

Because refrigerators use the most energy of all kitchen appliances, purchase the smallest model for your needs. Refrigerators with top freezers are most efficient. When



Adding on to your home is a great opportunity to practice energy efficient techniques like insulation and air sealing.

designing cabinets, allow space around the refrigerator and place it away from direct sunlight and hot appliances, such as your range or the dishwasher.

Dishwashers

Dishwashers with built-in booster water heaters allow you to reduce the temperature of your main water heater. Choose a model that also has an energy saving wash cycle and air-dry option.

Gas Ranges

Save energy with a modern gas range equipped with an electronic or thermal ignitor rather than a standing pilot light. Self-cleaning ovens reduce the need for caustic oven cleaners and have more energy saving insulation.

* Download the fact sheet [Reducing Appliance Energy Use](#) from focusonenergy.com.

Clothes Washers

ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers use 50 percent less energy and 35 percent to 50 percent less water per load.

* Download the fact sheet [Energy Efficient Clothes Washers](#) from focusonenergy.com.

YOUR HOUSE IS A SYSTEM



Remodeling can impact areas of the house in ways that are not obvious. For example, a new range hood in the kitchen might cause a water heater to backdraft, spilling potentially deadly combustion gases into the home. Seek the help of a Home Performance qualified contractor before you remodel. Visit focusonenergy.com to find a qualified contractor and download the fact sheet Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®.

Clothes Dryers

Choose a natural gas dryer which costs less to operate than an electric one. The cost of drying a typical load of laundry in a gas dryer is 15 to 20 cents compared to 30 to 40 cents in an electric dryer.

IMPROVE WINDOWS AND DOORS

Windows

ENERGY STAR windows provide suitable solar control and ventilation and save energy on heating and cooling bills. Additional measures such as insulating and air sealing work with efficient windows to dramatically reduce your energy bill.

* Download the fact sheet [Buying Energy Efficient Windows](#) from focusonenergy.com.

Doors

Install doors with a high insulating value. Weatherstrip around doors to reduce drafts and make sure they are properly sealed in order to avoid moisture damage.

UPGRADE HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS

Efficient heating and cooling systems can increase comfort and help you lower your energy bills (see sidebar to find out how to calculate these costs). Choose a furnace with an annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) rating of at least 90 percent. ENERGY STAR qualified air conditioning units offer comfort, reliability, and low operating and maintenance costs.

* Download the fact sheets [Basics of Home Heating and Cooling Basics for Your Home](#) from focusonenergy.com.

INSTALL A NEW WATER HEATER

Replace your water heater if it is old, inefficient or no longer meets your water needs. Know how much water you use each day and what kind of fuel heats your home. Choose a high efficiency, natural gas model that is power vented for combustion safety. To increase energy efficiency

and prevent scalding, set the water heater's thermostat to 125°F.

* Download the fact sheet [Energy Efficient Water Heaters](#) from focusonenergy.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

focusonenergy.com

Contact Focus on Energy to learn more about smart energy choices.

homeenergy.org/hewebsite

Home Energy Magazine has objective and practical information on residential energy conservation, performance and comfort.

energystar.gov

The ENERGY STAR program provides information on energy efficient products that meet ENERGY STAR standards.

homeenergysaver.lbl.gov

Perform an on-line home energy audit with this tool sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency.

homeenergy.org/hewebsite/book-about.html

No Regrets Remodeling. Published by the editors of Home Energy Magazine, this book shows you how to achieve big energy savings through home improvements.

HOW TO CALCULATE ANNUAL HEATING AND COOLING COSTS

NOTE: This approach will only work for those heating with natural gas.

STEP 1: CALCULATE YOUR BASE CONSUMPTION

Gather a year's worth of utility bills. Find the three months with the lowest consumption for your heating fuel. Drop the lowest and average the next two. Do the same for your electric bill (for cooling).

STEP 2: CALCULATE YOUR HEATING COST

Add up the amount you spent above the heating fuel base on each of your winter bills.

STEP 3: CALCULATE YOUR COOLING COST

Add up the amount you spent above the electric cooling base on each of your summer bills.