

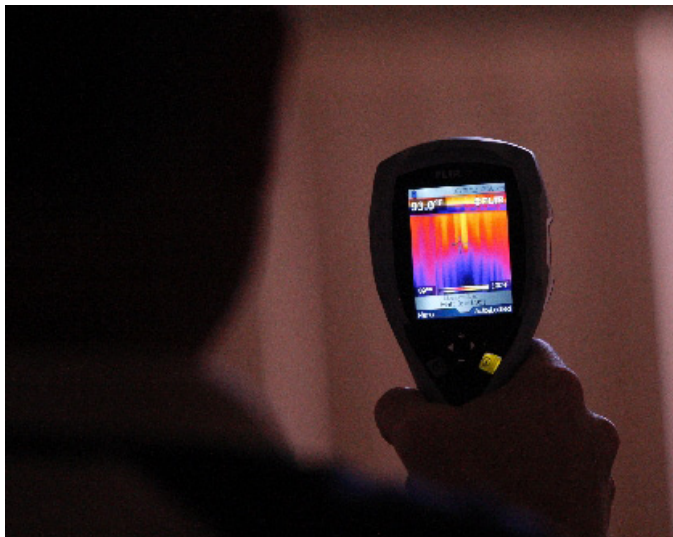
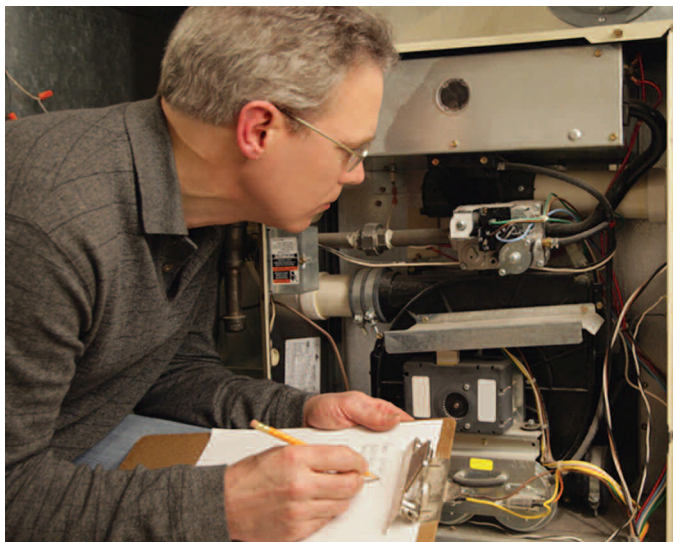


HOME  
PERFORMANCE  
WITH  
ENERGY STAR

U.S. Department of Energy,  
in conjunction with the  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

# Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®





## HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR:

### A WHOLE-HOUSE APPROACH

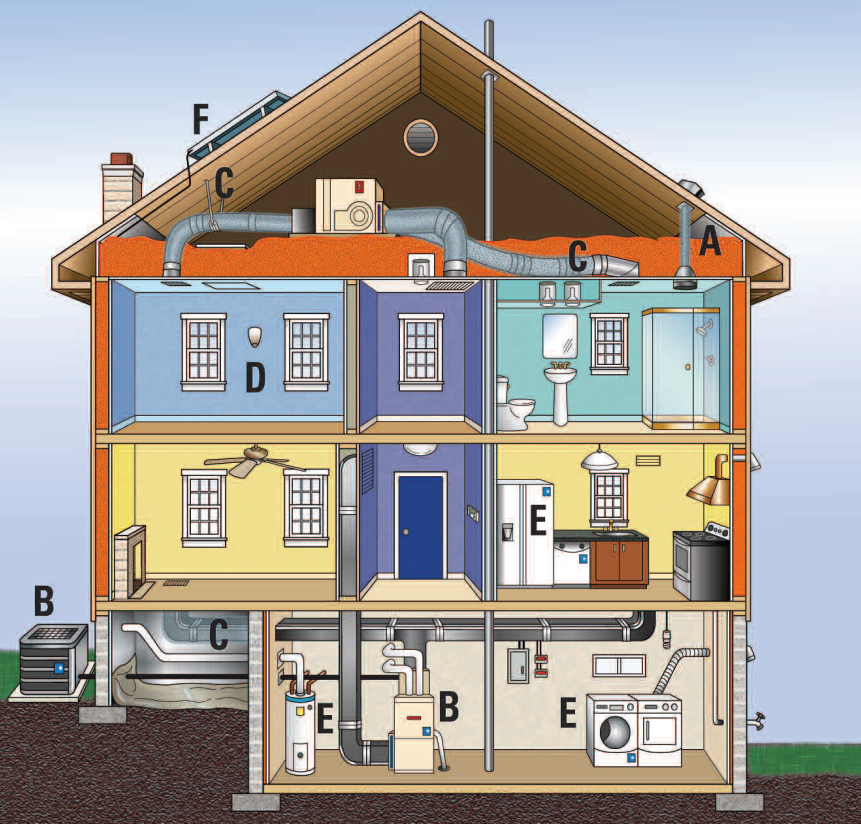
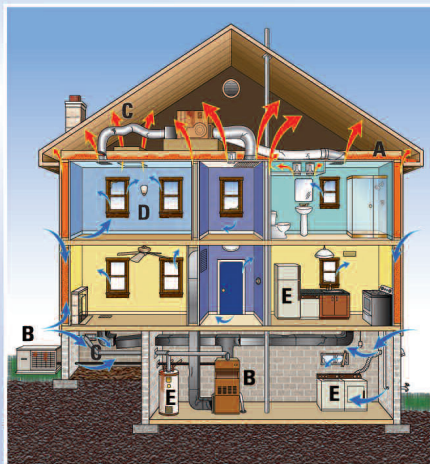
If you're considering making improvements to your home to lower energy bills or fix comfort problems, you should learn about Home Performance with ENERGY STAR—a whole-house approach to improving your comfort at home and energy efficiency, while helping to lower your utility bills.

Rather than focusing on a single problem, like an old heating or cooling system, not enough insulation in the attic, or leaky windows, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR helps you understand how improvements throughout the home work together so you can prioritize your investment to achieve your energy savings and comfort goals.

#### Benefits of Home Performance with ENERGY STAR:

- Possible utility bill savings of 20% or more
- Fewer drafts and more comfortable rooms
- Work performed by specially trained contractors
- Third-party quality assurance to make sure work gets done right
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions to protect the environment





## COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS

A participating contractor will perform diagnostic testing on your home and provide you with recommendations to improve your home's efficiency. Common improvements include:

- A. Sealing Air Leaks and Adding Insulation.** These are critical first steps to improving the energy efficiency of your home.
- B. Improving Heating and Cooling Systems.** If your furnace or air conditioner is old or damaged, your participating contractor may recommend that you replace it with a unit that has earned the ENERGY STAR label.
- C. Sealing Ductwork.** Making sure ducts are straight, properly connected, sealed, and insulated where needed, will greatly improve your home's comfort and energy efficiency.

**D. Replacing Windows.** If it's time to replace your home's windows, your participating contractor may recommend ENERGY STAR qualified models specific to your climate.

**E. Upgrading Lighting, Appliances, and Water Heating Equipment.** Energy used in these areas can account for nearly half your utility bill, so there's a big opportunity to save by installing ENERGY STAR qualified products.

**F. Installing Renewable Energy Systems.** Once energy efficiency improvements have been made to your home, your participating contractor may recommend additional measures, like installing solar panels or a solar hot water system.

## WHAT MAKES HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR PARTICIPATING CONTRACTORS DIFFERENT?

Knowing what energy efficiency improvements to make in a home and how they can work together requires special expertise. Participating contractors are equipped with specialized training and diagnostic tools to determine how your home is performing, and can assist you in achieving your goals, whether it's improving comfort, cutting energy costs, or protecting the environment.

## WHAT IS ENERGY STAR®?

ENERGY STAR is the government-backed program that helps us all to save money and protect our environment with energy-efficient products and practices. Whether you are looking to replace old appliances, remodel your home, or buy a new house, ENERGY STAR can help.

More than 50 kinds of products, including lighting, appliances, televisions, computers, heating and cooling equipment, and even new homes, can earn the government's ENERGY STAR label. ENERGY STAR also offers best practice solutions, like Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, to make your home more comfortable and reduce your energy costs.



**For more information on Home Performance  
with ENERGY STAR, visit  
[www.energystar.gov/homeperformance](http://www.energystar.gov/homeperformance)  
or email [homeperformance@energystar.gov](mailto:homeperformance@energystar.gov)**

## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR

### A HOME ENERGY ASSESSMENT

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR process starts with an interview that will help your participating contractor understand concerns you have about your home's energy use and comfort.

After the interview, the participating contractor will assess your home to determine where improvements are needed—inspecting your home inside and out, including the heating and cooling equipment, duct systems, lighting and appliances.

Your participating contractor will also inspect your attic, basement, and crawlspace; run diagnostic tests to check your home's structure for possible air leakage; or possibly use an infrared camera to find trouble spots.

Your participating contractor will also review your utility bills to compare them to similar homes in your area and determine how energy is potentially being wasted in your home.

### GETTING THE WORK DONE

After the assessment, your participating contractor will prepare a detailed work proposal outlining recommended improvements and can also show you how they may qualify for special financing or other incentives, where available. Once you decide which improvements to make, your participating contractor will help you get the job done right.

When work is completed, your participating contractor will run another set of tests to show the difference the improvements have made. Their work is also spot-checked by independent third-parties, so you can have added confidence that your project will be done correctly.

### TYPICAL RESULTS

The approach offered by Home Performance with ENERGY STAR will make your home more comfortable and energy efficient. Depending on the improvements you choose, you may be able to save 20% or more on your annual utility bill. And because you're using less energy, you'll also be helping to protect the environment.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



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