



Energy Audit

The most thorough energy audit of your home can be done by a professional who conducts a formal and complete assessment of all energy liabilities. But as a homeowner, you can also achieve greater energy efficiency for your home by conducting an assessment on your own. Here is what you would look for:

1. Locate and seal air leaks. These occur where obvious joints occur: window frames, doorways, wall and ceiling joints, pipe and electrical entries, foundations, etc. Check all these areas and seal with appropriate caulk and weatherstripping material.
2. Consider ventilation by ensuring that any combustion element in your house has sufficient ventilation and exhaust affiliated with its construction and installation.
3. Check insulation and ensure that your roof and walls are not transmitting unnecessary external heat or cold into your house. You will need to check insulation and vapor barriers under your attic roof. You can feel your exterior walls for excess heat or cold depending on the season and exposure—you can probe the air space between the interior and exterior walls to see what sort of insulation exists.
4. Inspect your heating and cooling equipment. Review your systems filtration requirements and consider replacing systems that are over 15 years old so that you may benefit from technological and efficiency improvements.
5. Review your lighting and light bulb usage. Lighting can account for 10% or more of your household energy usage. Consider compact fluorescent lamps or light-emitting diodes (LED's) to replace your current bulbs.
6. Review your appliance efficiencies and estimate their energy use. Analyze how you might reduce your usage or consumption, including replacing them with more efficient models. (Source: energy.gov)

