

# Check Out Our Advertisers' Home Improvement Specials

## Insulation the key to year-round energy savings

In many parts of the country, springtime is the only time of the year when homeowners have a brief respite from the high cost of home energy bills. But, as soon as summer sets in, air conditioning units are switched into high gear and the energy cycle begins anew.

Spring and summer are not usually thought of as times to insulate, but more and more homeowners are realizing that insulation can substantially reduce the amount of energy needed to air condition the home. Insulation installed now can reduce home energy consumption for seasons to come.

### Ten steps to save energy

To help you establish your own home energy conservation program, Manville Building Materials Corporation is offering a free, Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Audit. This 12-page, illustrated booklet includes a checklist of the 10 most important steps a homeowner can take to decrease the amount of energy used in the home.

A conventionally built home exchanges its interior air once every hour. This means that heated or air conditioned air inside the house is replaced by fresh air from the outside. In summer, a home can lose as much as a half a ton of cooled air per hour and in winter, about 1,000 pounds of heated air.

Air escapes through cracks around doors and windows; through holes drilled for pipes, ducts, electrical units and telephone wires; and through uninsulated attics, walls and floors. You can minimize this air loss by caulking and weatherstripping around cracks and openings and by making sure your home is properly insulated.

### Insulation checklist

Your attic is one of the first places you should check to see if you have enough insulation. If your attic is unfinished and unfloored, but has joists to walk on, you can easily find the R-value of the existing insulation. It will be printed on the top or bottom of the batts.

If your existing attic insulation is loose fill, you will need to measure the depth of the insulation between the framing members. If the insulation is fiberglass, you can use the following guidelines to determine the approximate R-value. Other types of insulation may yield different R-values.

Depth of loose fill insulation	Minimum R-value
3"	R-7
6"	R-14
9"	R-21

Once you know how much insulation you have, you can determine how much more you need. Just subtract the R-value of the existing insulation from the recommended R-value for your geographical area. Since R-values differ from climate to climate, you will need to consult your local building materials dealer for the recommended R-value in your area.

If your unfinished attic has a floor, use a ruler to poke through the cracks and around the edges to see how much insulation, if any, is there. If there is less than four inches, consider adding more.

Next, check for adequate insulation under floors, in crawl spaces and next to foundation walls. If you live in a climate where heating costs are above average, consider insulating in these areas.

Exterior walls are another important area to insulate. You can determine whether or not they are insulated by removing the cover from a light switch on an outside wall.

Turn off the power first. Shine a flashlight into the space between the switchbox and the wall and see if there is any insulation. If not, you may want to consider putting some in the walls. Your decision will be guided by the size of your energy bills and the amount of space inside the wall for insulation.

This is not a job for the do-it-yourselfer. Manville recommends that you consult a professional insulation contractor who can give you a free cost estimate and help you determine if additional wall insulation can be installed.

### Choosing a contractor

Although many parts of the home can be easily insulated by the homeowner, there are some people who prefer to use the services of a qualified insulation contractor.

Select an insulation contractor as carefully as you would any other home improvement contractor. Start by asking friends and neighbors for recommendations. You can also call your utility company or a local office of the National As-

sociation of Home Builders.

To help homeowners identify those contractors who are professionally trained and experienced in installing home insulation, Manville has established an "Approved Fiber Glass Insulation Contractor" program. Contractors participating in this program must attend training seminars sponsored by Manville, have a minimum of one year's experience in the contracting business and demonstrate financial stability.

You can find a listing of these contractors in your local telephone directory under "Insulation Materials." Look in this section for the name Manville to find the approved insulation contractors and retailers in your area.

For a free copy of Manville's "Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Audit" (HIG-447), write Manville Service Center, 1601 Twenty-Third Street, Denver, CO 80216.



ATTIC INSULATION can substantially reduce the amount of energy needed to air condition and heat the home. Manville's free D-I-Y Home Energy Audit will help you establish your own home energy conservation program.

## Five cost-cutting cues that are easy, painless

For most of us, the best home improvement we can make is to find additional ways to economize. Here are some cost-cutting measures that are both painless and productive:

- Take steps now to control air conditioning bills this summer. If possible, place window air conditioners on the north or shady side. If you have no choice, plant some bushes so direct sunlight won't fall on the air conditioner.

- If you've already cut down on beef meals and added more chicken, try planning meals without either for one or two nights a week. A dinner of spaghetti and salad or stir-fried vegetables over rice is tasty, nourishing and filling.

- Eliminate costly, fattening soft drinks and serve your fam-

ily refreshing water instead. You'll enjoy drinking water if you make it clean and delicious by filtering it through a recirculating charcoal system such as the Norelco Clean Water Machine. This helps take out elements that can make water taste or look unpleasant, and other pollutants that could be harmful to your health.

- Resist all those different products promoted for spring cleaning. Read contents and you'll probably find that one or two are all you need for walls, floors, cabinets and windows, too.

- One-stop shopping saves gas, but you might save even more by phoning in advance to be sure the store has the item you want.

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ESLC

**EASY HOME FIX-UP TIPS FOR SPRING**

Spring is the perfect season to give your home the extra care it needs to keep it in tip-top shape. With minimal effort and a small repair kit, minor blemishes vanish.

Following are some useful tips for solving a few problems in your home:

**Peeling wallpaper**  
 Repair by squeezing Elmer's Glue-All on both wall and wallpaper. Roll with rolling pin and wipe excess glue off with a damp cloth or sponge.

**Foundation cracks**  
 For foundation cracks above ground, clean and wire brush crack to ensure proper bond. Force Elmer's Concrete Crack Sealer deeply and fully into the crack. Apply in two layers, allowing first to dry before applying the second.

Smooth surface with a paint brush before the last application dries.

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