

MYTH #1: The solution for ice dams is to call a roofer.

FACT: Ice dams aren't a roofing problem. Ice dams form when attics are unintentionally heated by air leaks and/or insufficient insulation. This causes snow on the roof to melt, and freeze on the eaves, creating ice dams. You can reduce the risk of ice dams by sealing attic air leaks and adding insulation.

MYTH #2: The solution for frozen pipes is to call a plumber.

FACT: Though a plumber can repair frozen pipes, weatherizing is the best way to avoid having them freeze in the first place.

MYTH #3: It's easy to tell where my home is losing energy.

FACT: Many homeowners think the biggest air leaks are around windows and doors. While these leaks can be significant, most air leaks are hidden from view, passing through floors and ceilings, around chimneys, pipes, ductwork, etc. A Participating Energy Advisor, using specialized equipment and a computer model, can identify and quantify the extent of your energy loss.

MYTH #4: A boiler without a storage tank is efficient because you're not storing hot water.

FACT: With the exception of modern, on-demand water heaters, tankless water heating systems are the least efficient.

MYTH #5: The best way to deal with uncomfortably hot rooms is with an air conditioner.

FACT: With professional weatherization you can often address the source of the discomfort without using energy-draining air conditioners. Professional weatherization cannot only keep rooms warmer in the winter, but also keep them cooler in the summer.

MYTH #6: Newer homes don't need weatherization.

FACT: Houses built before June 2010 were not subject to any state energy efficiency building codes. Therefore, the age of a home is not necessarily a good indicator of energy efficiency.

MYTH #7: A dehumidifier is the best solution for everything from damp basements to mustiness.

FACT: A Participating Energy Advisor can identify moisture sources and recommend ways to reduce moisture in your home without using energy-draining dehumidifiers.

MYTH #8: Making your house too airtight is dangerous. Houses have to breathe.

FACT: While houses do need fresh air, most homes have more air leaks than necessary. Even worse, incoming air usually enters homes through basements, garages and crawl spaces, which can compromise air quality. Controlling the flow of air in your home can save energy and improve air quality, too.

MYTH #9: A humidifier is the best way to keep your home comfortable during a dry Maine winter.

FACT: Air leakage is the most common cause of excessive dryness. When cold air enters the house and is heated, the relative humidity is significantly reduced. Air sealing can help keep your home at a comfortable humidity level, without the need for a humidifier.

MYTH #10: Historic homes can't be weatherized.

FACT: The important thing to remember is that a trusted professional makes all the difference. Efficiency Maine Participating Energy Advisors are certified by the Building Performance Institute (BPI) to identify energy-saving opportunities while still preserving the integrity and character-defining features of older homes.