ENERGY AUDIT | LIGHTING & APPLIANCES | WEATHERIZATION | HEATING | COOLING | WATER HEATING

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EFFICIENCY MAINE

Energy Efficiency Tips



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866-376-2463

Efficiency Maine

The Efficiency Maine Trust (Efficiency Maine) is the independent, quasi-state agency established to plan and implement energy efficiency programs in Maine. Through its suite of nationally recognized programs, Efficiency Maine provides consumer information, marketing support, demonstration pilots, discounts, rebates, loans, and other initiatives to promote high-efficiency equipment and operations that help Maine's homes, businesses, and institutions reduce their energy costs and lower their greenhouse gas emissions.

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An energy audit can be a logical first step toward reducing energy use in your home. These audits involve various tests to help you identify and prioritize potential upgrades to improve comfort, increase energy efficiency, and reduce costs.



LIGHTING & APPLIANCES

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Appliances, lighting, and electronics account for a significant amount of energy usage in a typical Maine household. You can help reduce your energy consumption by using high-efficiency solutions.



WEATHERIZATION

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Does your home suffer from ice dams, frozen pipes, or cold spots? Weatherization may take care of these problems and deliver improved year-round comfort. Weatherization involves sealing areas throughout your home where air is leaking and increasing the insulation in your attic, basement, and walls.

TIPS AND FINANCIAL INCENTIVES TO HELP MAINERS SAVE ENERGY AND REDUCE COSTS

Efficiency Maine offers tips to become more energy efficient, as well as financial incentives (such as rebates, instant discounts, and loans) that can make upgrading to high-efficiency systems more affordable. Find information about available incentives and use our online calculators to compare the costs of heating your home and water using various technologies and fuels.



HEATING

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Homeowners have many choices for home heating systems, including fuel type, technology, efficiency level, and distribution system (the system that spreads heat throughout your home). Other things to consider include required maintenance and whether cooling, dehumidification (removal of moisture from the air), and air filtering are important to you.



COOLING

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When cooling your home, consider how an energy-efficient solution could provide comfort and reduce cooling costs.



WATER HEATING

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Today, there are more water heating technologies than ever before. Some things to consider when choosing the water heating option that is best for you are initial cost (including purchase and installation), lifetime energy costs, warranty, and capacity.

A Great First Step



An energy audit can be a logical first step toward reducing energy waste. Energy advisors perform various tests to find the best ways to cut down on energy use in your home and suggest ways to take care of possible health and safety issues, including moisture, mold, and radon. Energy audits can include a walk-through of the entire home and tests using a blower door, combustion safety equipment, and a thermal camera.

ENERGY AUDIT



OVERVIEW

Getting an energy audit from an energy advisor who is an Efficiency Maine Residential Registered Vendor can be a logical way to start weatherizing your home. Energy audits involve various tests to help you decide which areas are more important to weatherize first. Efficiency Maine offers rebates for energy audits as part of an eligible weatherization project and for many upgrades that might be recommended.

BLOWER DOOR TEST

Using a large fan that fits into a doorway, this test can show how airtight or leaky your home is and whether air sealing is recommended. During the blower door test, the energy advisor may evaluate the home with a thermal (or infrared) camera to identify potential sources of air leakage. Those steps may minimize possible health hazards and could potentially improve comfort and reduce potential damage to your home.

OTHER TESTS

Energy advisors can also conduct combustion safety testing on boilers and furnaces to make sure they are operating efficiently and venting properly. Thermal (or infrared) cameras allow trained advisors to identify ways you can upgrade your home's weatherization, such as by adding insulation. In addition, an energy advisor may recommend steps to reduce moisture or improve indoor air quality. Those steps can get rid of possible hazards and improve the comfort and lengthen the life of your home.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After an energy audit, an energy advisor may provide you with recommendations to make your home more efficient and comfortable. Some advisors provide detailed reports and computer modeling of your home, while others may simply provide a checklist of the most important items to address.



LIGHTING

When choosing to replace your next light bulb, choose a light-emitting diode (LED) bulb. These high-efficiency bulbs can provide the same amount and quality of light as incandescent bulbs. Compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs and LEDs are over 70% more efficient than incandescent light bulbs.

	Incandescent	Halogen	CFL	LED
Annual cost of operation/bulb*	$9.64	$6.94	$2.41	$1.64
Lumens per watt	15	25	60	72
Percent more efficient than incandescent	-	28%	75%	83%
Rated bulb life*	1.4 years (1,000 hours)	4.2 years (3,000 hours)	14 years (10,000 hours)	34 years (25,000 hours)
Instant on	yes	yes	most	yes
Dimmable	yes	yes	some**	most**
Cold tolerant	yes	yes	somewhat	yes
Contains mercury	no	no	yes	no
Recyclable	no	no	yes	no

* Annual cost of operation based on 800 lumens for 2 hours per day at $0.22 per kWh.
** CFLs and LEDs require compatible dimmers.

LIGHTING TIPS

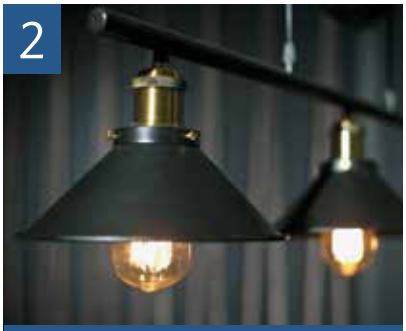
1



Use Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Bulbs

These high-efficiency bulbs can provide the same amount and quality of light as incandescent bulbs. LEDs are over 80% more efficient than incandescent light bulbs. Consider replacing incandescent or halogen bulbs before they burn out.

2



Reduce Wattage

For fixtures with multiple light bulbs or for outdoor fixtures, consider reducing the wattage on each of the light bulbs you're using.

3



Turn Off Lights

Remember to turn lights off whenever they are not needed.

4

Look for the ENERGY STAR® Label

If you are looking for a new lighting fixture, consider choosing one with the ENERGY STAR label. ENERGY STAR-approved lighting fixtures could save energy.

5



Consider Light Sensors

If having outdoor lights on at night is important to you, photocells might be a good option. Photocells are sensors that detect light. With a photocell, outdoor lights turn on only when it is dark out, saving money during the day.

GENERAL APPLIANCE TIPS

1 Reduce Phantom Load with a Power Strip

Many appliances continue to draw power when they are switched off. These "phantom loads" occur in most appliances that use electricity, such as DVD players, televisions, stereos, computers, and kitchen appliances. Where practical, plug devices into a power strip and switch it off when the devices are not in use.





2 Borrow an Electricity Monitor

Use an electricity monitor to determine which appliances in your home are contributing to phantom load. Electricity monitors are available to borrow from your local library.

3 Choose Efficient Appliances

If you are looking for a new appliance, consider choosing one with the ENERGY STAR label. Consider comparing energy labels that estimate the annual energy costs to run a new appliance. Select appliances that will meet your needs with the lowest energy use.

SEASON | **DIFFICULTY** | **COST**

Summer Winter | Easy Moderately difficult Difficult | No-cost project Low-cost project Moderate-cost project

KITCHEN APPLIANCE TIPS



KITCHEN APPLIANCE TIPS

1 Range

Stovetop

Use the smallest stovetop burner necessary to do the job. Match your pan size to the burner size. For example, a 6" pan on an 8" burner can waste over 40% of the heat produced by the burner.

Other tips to consider are:

- Cover all pots and pans to minimize heat loss.
- Use only as much water as you need. Boiling more water than you need uses more energy.
- Turn off the burner early. Let the residual heat finish cooking your food.
- Keep your burners and reflectors clean.

Oven

Avoid opening the door during cooking. Opening the door can lower the oven temperature. Use energy as effectively as possible by cooking several dishes in the oven at the same time.



2 Microwave and Smaller Cooking Equipment

When reheating food or cooking smaller portions, consider using a microwave or toaster oven instead of your full-size oven.

3 Dishwasher

Run full loads in the dishwasher whenever possible. If your dishwasher has a control for turning heated drying on and off, consider turning off heated drying. Or, if the manufacturer's instructions permit, open the door of the dishwasher at the end of the last rinse cycle. That may further reduce energy consumption by replacing the drying cycle with air drying.

4 Refrigerator

A typical refrigerator uses about 3% – 5% of a home's total energy use.
You can save energy by:

- Keeping refrigerator coils clean.
- Replacing worn door gasket(s).
- Removing and returning all your ingredients at once rather than opening and shutting the door repeatedly.

SEASON | **DIFFICULTY** | **COST**

Summer Winter | Easy Moderately difficult Difficult | No-cost project Low-cost project Moderate-cost project

LAUNDRY AND WATER HEATING APPLIANCE TIPS



LAUNDRY AND WATER HEATING APPLIANCE TIPS

1 Clothes Washer

Use the low-temperature settings on the washing machine and wash full loads. Washing one large load uses less energy than washing two smaller loads.

2 Clothes Dryer

Whenever possible, dry full loads, but be careful not to overfill the dryer. Cleaning the lint filter after each use can also reduce energy use. Depending on the type of dryer, using a lower temperature setting for a longer cycle uses less energy and is easier on your clothes. Consider hanging your clothes out to dry.

3 Dryer Vent

Consider sealing holes or gaps around vents, ducts, or electrical wires. Gaps allow air to leak outside from the inside and allow outside air to get in. Before sealing gaps make sure you are using caulking or spray foam that is suitable for use around wires, ducts, and vents.



4 Tips for Owners of Heat Pump Water Heaters

Heat pump water heaters can save you money and energy. If you are one of the tens of thousands of Mainers who own one, here are some quick tips to help you set up and operate your unit:

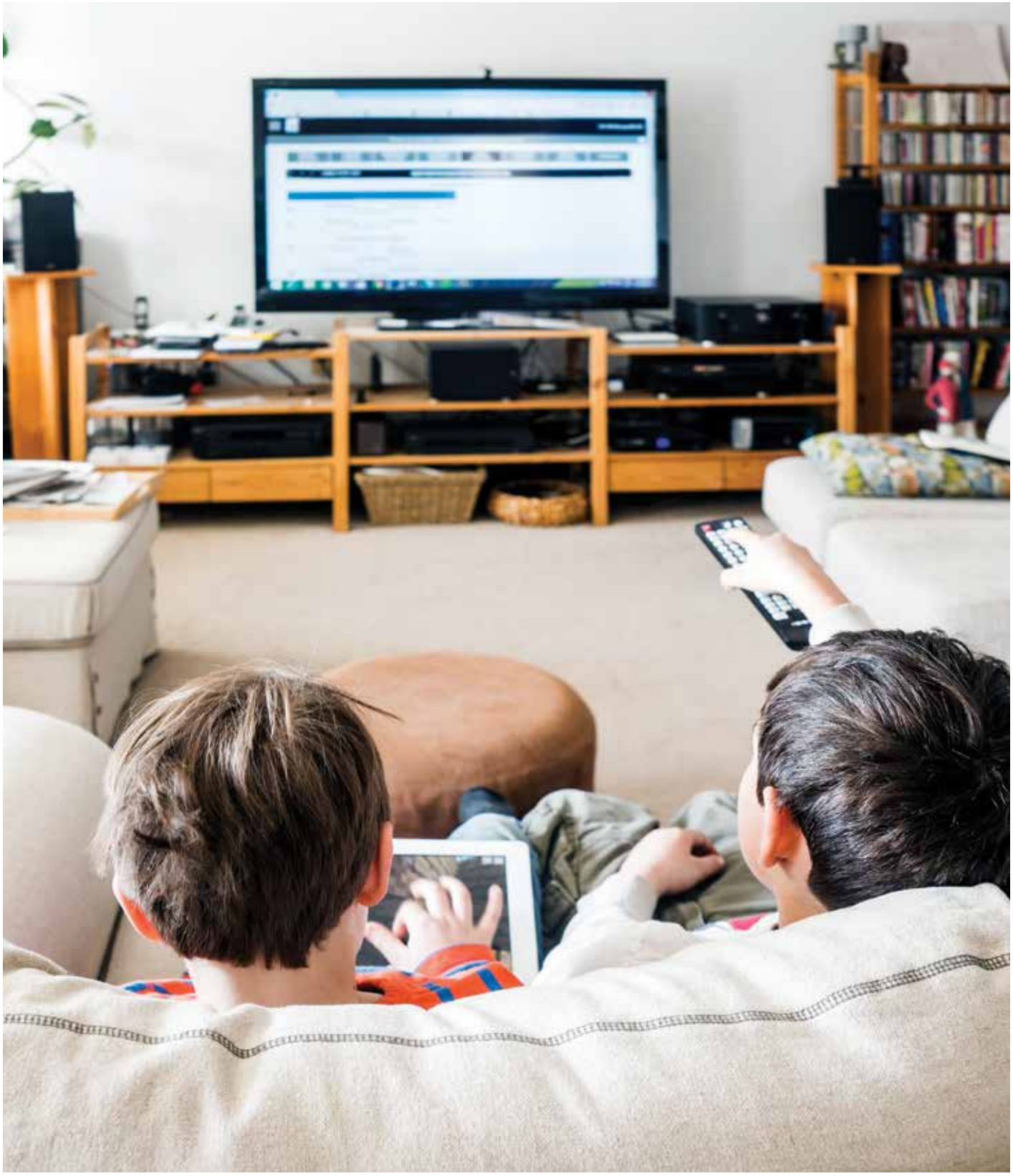
1. Set the water heater at the lowest temperature that works for you. 120°F is a good place to start.
2. Use "Heat Pump (only)" mode whenever possible.
3. Maximize the water heater's accessible space. If it is in a utility room, try opening the door to give it access to a larger space.
4. Be sure that air flow to and from the unit is not blocked.
5. Consider using "Vacation" mode if you are leaving your home for a long period of time.

See page 25 for more water heating tips.

SEASON | **DIFFICULTY** | **COST**

Summer Winter | Easy Moderately difficult Difficult | No-cost project Low-cost project Moderate-cost project

LIVING ROOM APPLIANCE TIPS



LIVING ROOM APPLIANCE TIPS

1 Television

Compare energy labels, which estimate the annual energy costs to run a new appliance, when you are looking to buy a new TV. On average, ENERGY STAR-certified TVs are more energy efficient than conventional models.

2 Home Theater/Audio

Choosing an ENERGY STAR-certified model should be a priority when buying home theater or audio equipment. ENERGY STAR models can be as much as 70% more efficient than conventional models. Consider comparing energy labels, which estimate the annual energy costs to run a new appliance. To save more energy, consider listening to music on a lower-watt Bluetooth speaker rather than a full-size amplifier or sound system when higher-powered equipment is not needed.

3 Computer/Monitor

Consider selecting the most energy-efficient desktop computers, monitors, laptops, notebooks, and tablets for your computing needs. A computer often uses energy even in sleep mode, so it's more efficient to turn a computer off when it's not in use. Consider changing the settings on the device to save as much energy as possible. Disable screensavers so that computers use less energy when they are in sleep mode.



4 Outlet

Power adapters draw power even when attached to devices that are turned off. To save energy, use a power strip and turn it off when attached devices are not in use. You can also unplug adapters from power sockets when you're not using your devices.

SEASON	DIFFICULTY	COST
Summer Winter	Easy Moderately difficult Difficult	No-cost project Low-cost project Moderate-cost project

Weatherization



Does your home suffer from ice dams, frozen pipes, or cold spots? Are you tired of wasting money to heat a leaky home? Weatherization may address these problems and deliver increased year-round comfort. Weatherization involves air sealing and increasing the insulation in your attic, basement, and walls.

Air Sealing

Reducing the amount of air that leaks in and out of your home can be a cost-effective way to reduce heating costs and improve comfort. Some air-sealing measures like caulking and weather stripping can be completed as do-it-yourself projects, but many air-sealing projects should be performed by a professional.

Insulation

Increasing the amount of insulation in your home can reduce heat loss during the winter and heat gain during the summer. When insulation is properly installed, heating and cooling systems will run less, helping to reduce energy bills and to keep you more comfortable.

GENERAL WEATHERIZATION TIPS

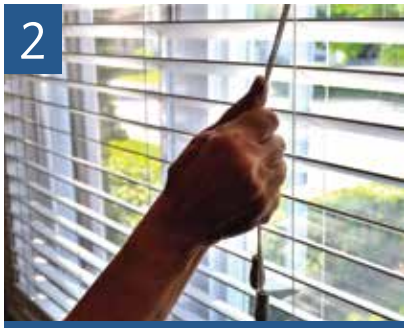
1



Window Treatments: Winter

Reduce heating demand during winter days by opening curtains, blinds, and shades on windows facing the sun. At night, keep drapes and curtains closed to reduce heat loss.

2



Window Treatments: Summer

Keep windows and window treatments closed during the day to reduce unwanted heat gain. Open windows in the evening and early in the morning to allow cooler air to come in.

3



Doors

If replacing your doors, apply caulking around door frames and weather stripping around doors that do not close tightly. Also consider selecting ENERGY STAR-certified models.

4



Windows

Insulating windows around their edges makes your home more energy efficient. To reduce heat loss in winter, install storm windows, transparent plastic window film, or indoor window inserts. When purchasing windows, look for ENERGY STAR-certified models designed for Maine's climate.

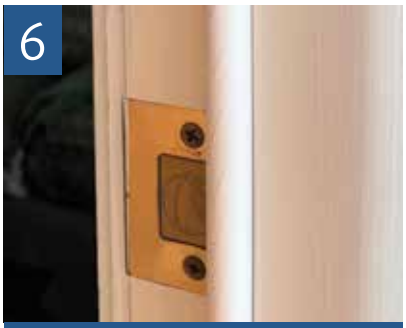
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Floor Vents/Registers

You can improve your home's energy efficiency by making sure that vents and floor registers are well sealed where they meet with the wall or floor. Make sure all ducts are connected and all vents and floor registers are clear of furniture or rugs that could impede airflow.

6



Weather Stripping

Use weather stripping for doors and windows to keep out hot air in summer and cold drafts in winter. Consider adding weather stripping to improve the seal on existing windows and doors.

GENERAL WEATHERIZATION TIPS

7



Caulk and Spray Foams

Spray foam insulation and caulk are often used to fill cracks and gaps where air could travel between outdoors and indoors. To make a room warmer in winter and cooler in summer, try air sealing with caulk, spray foam, or both.

8



Receptacles and Switch Boxes

Seal outlets and switch boxes with foam gaskets. Installing foam gaskets can reduce drafts and create an extra barrier between warmer and cooler air.

9



Rope Caulk

Consider installing a temporary seal around windows and doors that won't be used for long periods of time, such as a basement door that is unused in the winter. Many types of rope caulk can be easily removed in the spring and stored in a plastic bag for reuse the following season. To fill larger gaps, use several strands twisted together.

10



Door Sweep

Install door sweeps to keep out hot air in summer and cold drafts in winter.



11



Air Sealing

Air sealing reduces drafts and heat loss by eliminating air leaks in your home. Professional air sealers use a variety of materials, including caulk, spray foam, metal flashing, weather stripping, and rigid foam. Some materials are more suitable than others for specific locations or trouble spots. For example, fire-rated caulk and metal flashing are used around the chimney and in other high-temperature air-sealing situations.

Air leaks can be difficult to see, but spider webs often show where there is airflow. Other indicators include musty smells and ice dams.

The best way to learn where your home might benefit from air sealing is to consult with an Efficiency Maine Residential Registered Vendor. They can use diagnostic equipment like a blower door to assess the relative "leakiness" of your home, locate the leaks with a smoke pencil or a thermal camera, and recommend ways to improve comfort and efficiency.

ATTIC WEATHERIZATION TIPS

The exterior of your living space — the outer walls, ceiling, windows, and floor — is called the "envelope" or "shell." Sealing and insulating, done by a knowledgeable homeowner or skilled contractor, can help you save on total annual energy bills. It will also make your home more comfortable and help your heating and cooling system run more efficiently. You can hire an Efficiency Maine Residential Registered Vendor, who can use special diagnostic tools to find and seal the hidden air leaks in your home before adding insulation. An insulation professional can apply solutions, such as spray foam and blown-in insulation.

Efficiency Maine recommends insulating the entire building envelope: attics, cathedral ceilings, all wall cavities, rim joists, basement walls, and crawl spaces.

For the best energy efficiency, your home should be insulated from the roof down to two feet below ground level. Insulation's ability to reduce heat transfer is rated in terms of its R-value, with a higher R-value making the home more efficient and comfortable.

12



Attic Insulation

To get the biggest savings, the easiest place to add insulation is usually in the attic. A quick way to see if you need more insulation is to look across your uncovered attic floor. If your insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you probably need to add more. Efficiency Maine recommends insulating open attics to a value of at least R-49.

13



Attic Hatch

If you have pull-down attic stairs or an attic door, consider sealing it: weather strip the edges and put a piece of rigid foam board insulation on the back of the door. Treat the attic door like a door to the outside. Pre-made insulated attic stair covers are also available from local home-improvement centers or online.



BASEMENT WEATHERIZATION TIPS



Basement Insulation

Efficiency Maine suggests insulating basement walls from two feet below ground level to the underside of the first floor. A minimum of two inches of rigid or spray foam are needed to get the best results. Consider dense-pack insulation or a minimum of two inches of rigid or spray foam to insulate crawl space and basement ceilings.



Rim Joist

The part of the basement where the home's exterior framing rests atop foundation walls is known as the "band joist" or "rim joist." To provide a well-insulated barrier, rim and band joists should be thoroughly sealed up to the bottom of the first floor.





Chimney

Homes can have gaps or cracks where the chimney passes through the floors and ceilings. Cracks between unheated and heated spaces can create drafts in the winter. They can also lead to unwanted heat in summer. Use caulking or spray foam insulation to fill gaps and cracks. Special materials may be required depending on the type of chimney.





Penetrations

There can be gaps where any plumbing or electrical work runs through exterior walls and between floors. These gaps could allow air to flow between unheated and heated spaces. Consider sealing all holes with spray foam sealant or caulking to stop air movement.



SEASON | **DIFFICULTY** | **COST**

Summer Winter | Easy Moderately difficult Difficult | No-cost project Low-cost project Moderate-cost project

HEATING TIPS

Heating and Cooling Systems

When choosing a home heating system, consider choosing the most energy-efficient option. There are many choices involved in a heating system purchase: fuel type, technology, efficiency level, and the distribution system (the system that spreads heat throughout your home). Other points to consider include appearance, maintenance, and non-heating functions, like air conditioning and dehumidification. Efficiency Maine has produced resources for Mainers, including tips to make your home energy efficient and comfortable. Visit efficiencymaine.com and use our Compare Home Heating Costs calculator to learn more about different kinds of heating systems that may match your needs. While on the website, learn more about our Residential Registered Vendors, rebates, and available financing. In order to get the most energy savings from your current heating system, schedule annual cleanings to keep it in top condition. Increase comfort by servicing the heating system at the manufacturer's recommended timing. This may also help you reduce operating costs and prevent system failure.

1 Take Advantage of Zone Heating

Use only the heat needed. If your home has zone heating, be sure to heat only the smallest zone possible. If you are using one zone, consider turning down thermostats and closing registers in vacant zones, taking precautions to avoid frozen pipes.

2 Turn Down Manual Thermostats

Consider turning down your furnace or boiler thermostat to 55˚F when your home is unoccupied. For sleeping, consider setting your thermostat to 60˚F. If you have a heat pump, please see page 23 for important differences in its operation.

3 Set Your Programmable Thermostat

Programmable thermostats run automatically and can adjust the temperature on their own based on the time of day or day of the week. This can help your home use less energy when it is unoccupied or at night while you sleep.

4 Switch to a Smart Thermostat

Compared to conventional thermostats, smart thermostats are more accessible and more convenient. Some smart thermostats can detect your presence in a room and can adjust the temperature accordingly. They can be controlled via any smartphone, so you can turn the temperature up or down before you return home.





HEATING TIPS

5 Clean Boilers & Furnaces

For optimum efficiency, make sure your boiler or furnace is cleaned and serviced annually by qualified personnel. Cleaning can make the heating system safer and more efficient, and may make it last longer.

6 Choose Efficient Circulator Pumps

If you have a hydronic (often referred to as "forced hot water") heating system and have to replace circulator pumps, consider Electrically Commutated Motor (ECM) pumps, which can reduce operating cost by 85% because their motors adjust their speed to match the load. They also tend to be more reliable than traditional circulator pumps.



7 Maximize the Effectiveness of Your Heat Pump

If you own a heat pump, consult the tips on page 23 to make sure you're getting the most from your system.



8 Use the Fireplace Damper Correctly

Properly close the flue damper of your fireplace when not in use. This will not only prevent warm indoor air from escaping in winter, but also keep in cool air in the summer. Make sure that any fire is totally out before closing the damper of your fireplace and confirm there are no glowing embers. Doing so could help prevent your room or home from being filled with carbon monoxide and other pollutants.



9 Reflect Heat from Radiators

If your home has radiators, place heat resistant reflectors between radiators and walls, which will help heat the room instead of the wall.

Heat Pumps

Over 200,000 high-efficiency heat pumps have been installed in Maine homes and businesses. Heat pumps are one of the most popular technologies for heating in cold climates. They also provide air conditioning and help to dehumidify in the summer. Efficiency Maine offers rebates for high-efficiency heat pumps for residential and commercial customers.

How They Work

In the same way an air conditioner makes it cooler indoors during hot weather, a heat pump makes the air inside warmer when it's cold outside. Because heat pumps work in both directions, they can heat in winter and cool in summer. Heat pumps are able to provide efficient heating in cold climates even at outdoor temperatures as low as -22°F.



The Advantages

Efficient heat – Heat pumps are one of the most efficient sources of heat.

Low-cost air conditioning – Today's high-performance heat pumps are twice as efficient as typical air conditioners.

Room-by-room control – Heat pumps that have multiple indoor units allow for separate temperature control in the rooms with the units.

Safety – Because heat pumps are electrically powered, there is no risk of combustion from gas leaks.

Air quality – When running, heat pumps filter indoor air and dehumidify it in the summer, improving air quality.

Choose High Performance

High-performance heat pumps are able to provide efficient heating in cold climates even at outdoor temperatures as low as -22°F.

Heat Pump User Tips

Here are some quick tips to get you started:

1. Set your heat pump(s) high enough to achieve the level of warmth you need, whether or not you have other heating sources. Remember that heat pumps are the most energy-efficient way to heat.
2. Set your heat pump at a comfortable temperature and forget it. Heat pumps operate most efficiently when holding a steady temperature. Turning heat pumps down when you're away or asleep may actually use more energy than leaving them on.
3. Use different "Heat" and "Cool" settings in winter and summer, respectively, rather than "Auto Temperature" mode.
4. In general, the "Auto" fan setting is the best starting option.
5. For maximum efficiency, vacuum or rinse indoor unit filters regularly to make sure that air flows freely.

For more tips for your heat pump, go to efficiencymaine.com

SEASON | **DIFFICULTY** | **COST**

Summer Winter | Easy Moderately difficult Difficult | No-cost project Low-cost project Moderate-cost project

COOLING TIPS

1 Use Fans

At night, use fans to draw in cooler night air. Close the windows during the day to keep cooler air inside.

2 Exhaust Warm Air

Exhaust warm air from the kitchen while cooking. The energy used by the exhaust fan is lower than that required to cool the air with an air conditioner.

3 Opt Out of an Air Conditioner

Open windows on opposite sides of your home for cross-ventilation.

4 Use Ceiling Fans

Ceiling fans not only provide comfort, but also can help save energy. If you are using a fan with a reverse direction function, set it to blow upward in winter. During the summer months, switch to downward airflow to create a cool breeze.

5 Cool Rooms Efficiently

For the most efficient dehumidification and cooling, consider a high-efficiency heat pump. It will keep you cool and dry in summer and provide low-cost heating in the winter. If you do buy a cooling unit, consider choosing an ENERGY STAR-certified air conditioner. ENERGY STAR-certified air conditioners come with timers that can help you use minimum power to cool your room. Be sure windows are tightly sealed, so cool air does not escape. Clean the filters of your air conditioner regularly to improve both efficiency and performance. Keep the front and back of the air conditioner unit clear of obstructions. Removing the window air conditioning unit in the winter will help avoid a possible air leak.



Water Heater Tips

1 Choose an Efficient Water Heater

Today, there are more water heating technologies than ever. When comparing options, consider the following:

1. Initial cost, including purchase and installation
2. Lifetime energy costs, which are typically far higher than initial costs
3. Warranty, which can be an indicator of product life
4. Capacity, to make sure you will have enough hot water
5. Space requirements
6. Incentives, including rebates* and tax credits

* Efficiency Maine offers rebates that can make upgrading to a high-efficiency system more affordable. Find information about rebates and compare water-heating costs online at efficiencymaine.com.

2 Consider a Heat Pump Water Heater

Tens of thousands of Mainers own heat pump water heaters. They're popular because they:

- produce lots of hot water,
- help dehumidify,
- typically have 10+ year warranties, and
- can save hundreds of dollars per year in electricity.*

* Compared to a traditional electric water heater as shown on Efficiency Maine's Compare Water Heating Costs calculator.



SEASON Summer Winter | **DIFFICULTY** Easy Moderately difficult Difficult | **COST** No-cost project Low-cost project Moderate-cost project

WATER HEATING TIPS

3 Repair or Replace Leaky Faucets

Did you know a leaky faucet can waste hundreds of gallons of water each year? If your faucets are leaking, you're not only wasting water, you're wasting the energy that was used to heat it. Consider repairing or replacing leaky faucets.

4 Take Shorter Showers

Shorter showers are a great way to reduce water consumption and heating costs.

5 Install Energy–Saving Shower Heads

Select a shower head model with a flow rate of less than 2.0 gallons per minute.

6 Consider a Lower Water Temperature Setting

Set the temperature according to your preference. In general, lower temperatures save energy, and higher temperatures allow the unit to handle more hot water use. High temperatures also increase the risk of scalding, so a common default setting is 120°F. If you find you need more hot water, you can try increasing the temperature setting and mixing in more cold water at the tap. To avoid scalding at high temperatures, a mixing valve can be installed to automatically reduce water temperature before it reaches the tap.



SEASON Summer, Winter | **DIFFICULTY** Easy, Moderately difficult, Difficult | **COST** No-cost project, Low-cost project, Moderate-cost project

Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicles can be solely powered by an electric motor with a battery (a Battery Electric Vehicle or BEV) or by a combination of both an electric motor and a gas engine (a Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle or PHEV). Drivers in Maine and around the world are making the switch to electric vehicles (EVs) for the following reasons:

- **Driver satisfaction** – Quick acceleration and a quiet drive.
- **Time and money savings** – The cost of using electricity to power your car is less than the cost of gas.
- **Reduced maintenance** – Electric vehicles have electric motors, requiring less annual maintenance and fewer repairs compared to cars with internal combustion engines, and BEVs require no oil changes.
- **Energy independence** – Reduced fuel dependence and exposure to fossil fuel price volatility.

Visit efficiencymaine.com for information on rebates and other incentives.



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