



CASE STUDY

HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR®

Warm and Cozy in New York State

Manlius, New York

Although the Schumachers loved their 4-bedroom home, it was cold and drafty in the winter. The house was built in 1970, without much insulation. Standing in her bedroom, Laurie Schumacher could almost tell you which way the winter winds were blowing. She finally decided it was time to replace the drafty windows. So she picked up the phone and called EnTherm, a company that a trusted friend had recommended.

EnTherm participates in the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program in New York, which is an innovative whole house approach to improving the comfort and energy efficiency of existing homes. The process is simple. Qualified contractors provide a complete home assessment and recommend ways to improve its energy efficiency. They can even do the work. Contractors use equipment such as blower doors and infrared cameras to pinpoint air leaks and insulation gaps and to verify that heating and cooling equipment is working efficiently and safely. The goal is to improve the overall performance of the home rather than fixing one item that may be only part of the problem.

EnTherm's estimator arrived at the Schumachers' house, with a blower door and an infrared (IR) camera. Drafty windows might be the reason the Schumachers had called, but replacing them wasn't necessarily the solution to achieving comfort in their house. After conducting a blower door test and an IR scan to locate the largest leaks, an EnTherm technician determined that the windows were indeed leaky, but so was the thin layer of attic insulation.

The technicians air-sealed the attic, including a pocket door frame that blower door testing indicated was extremely leaky, and upgraded the attic insulation to R-41 by blowing in cellulose insulation. They replaced windows in the bedrooms and the dining room, and in the living room they added window film to reduce damage to the furniture caused by UV light. They also removed electric heaters from two rooms that been heated separately, replacing them with new gas-fired units.

Laurie Schumacher is enthusiastic about how comfortable her home is. "The difference between last winter and this winter has been remarkable," she says; "This winter we got hot inside."

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program currently is available in 12 states. Benefits of the program include:

- ▶ Up to 30% Savings on Energy Bills
- ▶ A Quieter, More Comfortable Living Environment
- ▶ Improved Air Quality
- ▶ Greater Home Durability with Lower Maintenance

To learn more about the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program, visit:
www.energystar.gov/homeperformance

