



CASE STUDY

HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR®

Dealing with Dust in Georgia

Suwanee, Georgia

When the Milewskys moved into their home in December 2004, they noticed hot and cold spots throughout. They both suffered from nasal congestion and sinus infections due to high levels of dust in the house.

To counter the dust problem, the Milewskys contacted two contractors participating in the Southface Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program. Homescan and Climatrol, respectively, performed diagnostic testing and energy retrofit work on their home. Homescan found that the furnace needed repair and service (in fact, a sealing plate had been inadvertently left off the bottom of the furnace causing insulation to be sucked into the furnace and ductwork, thereby contributing to dusty conditions). Also, ductwork throughout the home was found to be very leaky. According to Tom Milewsky, "There were holes big enough to put your arm in."

After servicing and repairing the furnace, the technician installed a new sealing plate. This instantly led to a better supply of air throughout the Milewsky home. The attic was air-sealed to prevent any insulation or dust from intruding into the living areas. Insulation was also blown into the spaces behind interior walls and chases that had previously been empty cavities.

Tom noted "there is very little dust in the house." He expects to see a positive impact on his heating and cooling costs. "You can already feel the difference in the house. Air and heat are being distributed nicely."

Tom views the home assessment and energy efficiency improvements as a "no-brainer." The family received a rebate for the assessment fee from their utility Jackson EMC. Tom also wrote a letter to his homeowner's warranty company explaining the work Climatrol had completed on the home. The warranty company sent Tom a check to cover a portion of the work. In the end, the family received about half of the project costs from these rebates, nearly \$1,000.

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

