



CASE STUDY

HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR®

Addressing Dust in St. Louis

St. Louis, Missouri

The Steinburks had dust and lint everywhere. When a new high efficiency furnace was put in 2 years ago, Don Steinburk asked the contractor who installed it if he could also do something about the dust problem they'd been fighting for years. The ducts were cleaned, and the contractor installed an electrostatic filter. But the problem continued. The Steinburks needed someone who could tell them what was going on in their home and fix the problem. They got word that Ed Fieser of MaxHome might be able to help.

Ed is participating in the recently launched Home Performance with ENERGY STAR sponsored locally by the Missouri Botanical Garden's Earthways Center. Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is an innovative whole house approach to improving the comfort, safety, durability, and energy efficiency of existing homes. 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 simply fixing one item that may be only part of the problem.

Ed came in and quickly found one part of the problem. The ducts in the Steinburk home were very leaky. He also found another common problem—many holes in the attic floor. These holes not only draw in a lot of warm air from below in the winter, they also provide a way for dust and

insulation particles from the attic to get back into the home. Ed discovered the ducts were full of lint, which was fiberglass insulation that had been pulled into the system.

Ed air-sealed the attic. "I pushed the insulation aside and started sealing holes," said Ed. He then put the insulation back and topped it off with several inches of additional insulation for good measure. Then he sealed the ducts and cleaned them.

Don was impressed with the results. "He did a really great job. The dust bunnies that we couldn't get rid of before have disappeared." The Steinburks should see another result. The work was done in the spring during milder temperatures. With the tighter home, tighter ducts, and additional insulation, they should be able to stay cooler this summer and warmer next winter. And they can expect to save energy and lower their utility bills.

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

