



HOME PERFORMANCE WITH  
**ENERGY STAR**

U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency and  
U.S. Department of Energy

# Home Performance with ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup>

SAMPLE



## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER: HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR

After evaluating your home, the contractor will assist you in selecting improvements that will be the best investments for your home and your family and can tell you how to take advantage of Federal tax credits for energy efficiency improvements. Once you select the improvements that fit your needs and budget, your contractor will either make the specified improvements or work with other professionals to have the job completed.

### QUALITY ASSURANCE

Your contractor is participating in a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program with a local sponsor. That sponsor is



#### TECHNICIAN PERFORMING A BLOWER DOOR TEST

committed to on-going quality assurance to ensure that contractors are maintaining high standards for performance testing and whole-house improvements. To meet these goals, the sponsor will spot-check the work of participating contractors. This gives you extra peace of mind that your work will be done right.

From whole-house analysis to ensuring quality work, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR can help you make your home more energy efficient and comfortable, while reducing your utility bills and protecting the environment.

## WHAT IS ENERGY STAR®?

ENERGY STAR is the government-backed program that helps us all to save money and protect our environment with energy-efficient products and practices. Whether you are looking to replace old appliances, remodel your home, or buy a new house, ENERGY STAR can help.

More than 40 kinds of products, including lighting, appliances, televisions, computers, heating and cooling equipment, and even new homes, can earn the government's ENERGY STAR label. ENERGY STAR also offers best practice solutions, like home sealing and duct sealing, that can make your home more comfortable and reduce your energy costs.

Energy efficiency helps us make the most of our nation's energy resources and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Home Performance with ENERGY STAR, sponsored nationally by U.S. EPA and U.S. DOE and available in select cities, offers a comprehensive, whole-house approach to making energy-efficient home improvements. Participating contractors provide recommendations and services to homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient and comfortable, while reducing their utility bills and protecting the environment.



For more information on  
Home Performance with  
ENERGY STAR, visit  
[www.energystar.gov/homeperformance](http://www.energystar.gov/homeperformance)  
or call  
1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937)

## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM HOME PERFORMANCE WITH ENERGY STAR

### DIAGNOSING THE PROBLEM

A contractor participating in a locally-sponsored Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program can help you cost-effectively improve your home's energy efficiency. These specially-trained contractors evaluate your home using state-of-the-art equipment and recommend comprehensive improvements that will yield the best results. These recommendations can benefit you by making your home more comfortable, saving energy, and reducing levels of allergens like dust and pollen in your home.

Rather than focusing on a single component, such as drafty windows, an old air conditioning system, or leaky ductwork, the contractor will assess how improvements to all of these components can work together to provide:

- fewer drafts,
- consistent temperature distribution across rooms,
- better humidity control,
- proper ventilation, and
- lower utility bills.

### COMMON RECOMMENDATIONS

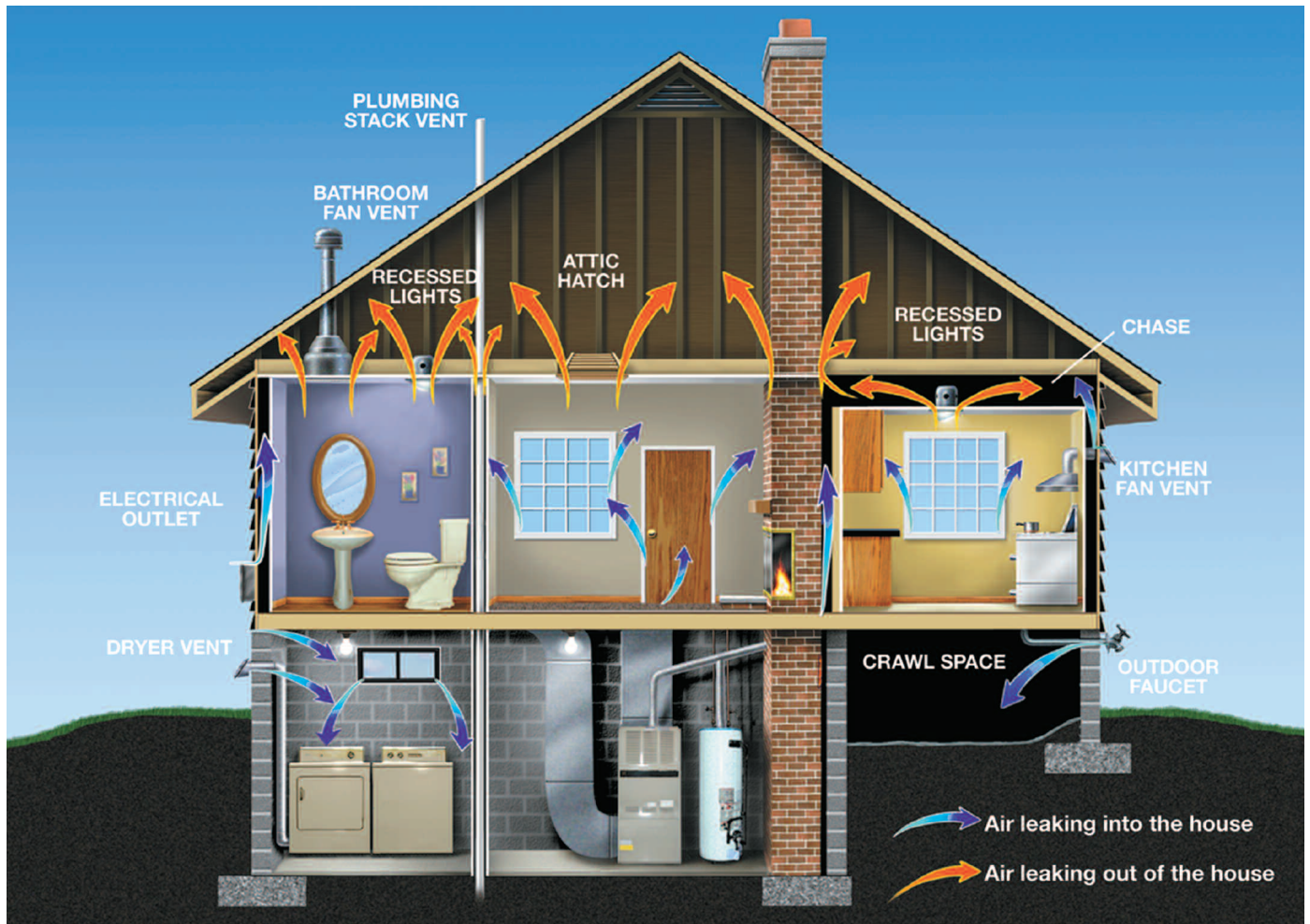
While your home performance contractor will develop a specific plan for your home, commonly recommended solutions include:

### SEALING AIR LEAKS AND ADDING INSULATION

Many air leaks in homes are fairly obvious, such as around windows, doors, and electrical outlets. But others, like those in attics, around chimneys, and through recessed lighting fixtures, are often the more significant sources of energy loss in a home. Blocking and sealing air leaks is critical to the overall efficiency of your home and will make all of the other components deliver better performance.

Along with air sealing, your contractor may recommend that you have additional insulation installed in your home. Many older homes are not well-insulated, and some have no insulation at all. Properly installed insulation in walls, floors, and attics provides for more even temperatures throughout the house and results in a quieter, more comfortable living environment.





## IMPROVING HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS

If your furnace or air conditioner is more than 10 years old, your contractor may recommend that you replace it with a unit that has earned the ENERGY STAR label. Installed correctly, these high-efficiency units can save up to 20% on heating and cooling costs. But when it comes to heating and cooling equipment, bigger is not always better. A properly-sized unit will make your home more comfortable by providing more consistent temperatures and better humidity control.

Your contractor should also test combustion equipment, such as your furnace and hot water heater, to ensure that it is operating and venting properly.

## SEALING DUCTWORK

Most homes have leaky ductwork and insufficient air flow, resulting in an uncomfortable living environment—regardless of the thermostat setting. Your home performance contractor

may recommend sealing your home's ducts with mastic, metal tape or aerosol-based sealant, and balancing the duct system to optimize air flow to all rooms. Insulating ductwork in attics, crawlspaces, and some basements can also help to ensure that your home will be more comfortable.

## UPGRADING LIGHTING AND APPLIANCES

Energy used for lighting and appliances can account for half of your home's total utility bill. As a result, your home performance contractor may recommend ENERGY STAR qualified products, such as refrigerators, dishwashers, electronic equipment, light fixtures, and compact fluorescent bulbs. An energy- and water-efficient hot water heating system may also be recommended.

Once you've taken steps to increase your home's efficiency, you may also want to consider adding renewable energy systems, such as solar electric (photovoltaics) or solar hot water, to further reduce your utility bills.



United States  
Department of Energy