Turning your house into your dream home

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DOING IT RIGHT

With help from D4 Construction

Home Energy Audit - Do You Need It?

Checking for energy loss in your home…

Doing a home energy audit is a smart way to cut down on the size of your utility bills. It's all to easy to overlook areas of your home that could be causing an unnecessary increase in energy consumption.

Many everyday appliances can create a phantom load—leaking electricity on a steady basis.

Did you know…

Although an appliance may be switched off and not in use—it still consumes energy?

⇒ VCRs, stereo components, microwave ovens, toasters and stoves are all included in this category because of the phantom loads they create (a phantom load is created by any appliance that is in standby mode—in effect it leaks electricity)

⇒ Any remote controlled device—with a standby mode—is also included in this category

Though these appliances and tools appear to be off they are still consuming/leaking energy. And while none are leaking much energy—collectively it's a different story.

Add up all the items in your home that fit into this category multiply by 30 (# of days in a month), and then by 12.

Over time it can really add up.

You're just one person or family. Imagine how much energy is leaked by our city—country— even continent!

Why the experts recommend a home energy audit…

Performing an energy audit makes it possible for you to see exactly where you can increase the energy efficiency of your home. This could potentially save you hundreds, or even thousands of dollars (depending on the size of your home) in the upcoming years.

The well-known and not so well-known energy culprits…

⇒ There are the well-known areas of energy loss such as windows and doors—fixing them can create a savings of 5-30%.

To find these leaks conduct a simple depressurization test:

⇒ Close all exterior windows, doors, and fireplace flues

⇒ Turn off all combustion appliances such as gas furnaces and hot water heaters

⇒ Turn on all bathroom and kitchen fans or use a large window fan to suck the air out of the rooms

The test increases the amount of cold air

A fireplace can be a source of major heat loss if the flue is not kept closed when not in use.

flowing into the room. Use incense sticks to increase visualization of the drafts.

⇒ And then there are the less obvious areas of the attic, ceilings, electrical plugs and switch plates—are they adequately insulated to prevent cold leaking into the house—the higher the R-value of your insulation the greater the efficiency

⇒ Next, take a look at your fireplace—a fireplace is built to keep smoke moving out of the interior of your home, it's called propulsion. Unfortunately this propulsion of air continues even when you are not using the fireplace.

By leaving the flue open propulsion will continue to do its work as furnace heated air coming from floor vents goes straight up and out the chimney. Imagine how much this could be unnecessarily increasing your heating costs.

So when dealing with a fireplace, bear in mind that the flue should be kept closed when it's not being used.

And finally…

⇒ Check that all heating/cooling unit vents are free of dust and obstructions, all ductwork sealed and insulated

⇒ Consider replacing your furnace if it is over 15 years old

Armed with this information you'll be able to create an "energy-efficient upgrade"—plan of attack.

Upcoming Topics

⇒ Home Energy Use

⇒ More Energy Saving Tips

⇒ Water Saving Tips

For more information:

on how we can assist you with turning your house into your dream home while making it more energy efficient—or if you have any questions—call Mike Spruyt at 572-4812

The D4 Guarantee

D1 – Your job will be done for the price specified—there are no surprises or hidden costs.

D2 – Your job will be completed the way you want it done.

D3 – If you aren't satisfied with the finished product we'll fix it for free.

D4– All work comes with a 2-year guarantee on workmanship