

Turning your
house into
your dream
home

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*With rising
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to improve
your home's
insulation.*

DOING IT RIGHT

With help from D4 Construction

Increase Your Home's Energy Efficiency

Keeping the cold/hot OUT...

With energy prices continually rising we need to take every measure we possibly can to save energy and our pocketbook.

This month we're going to focus on the #1 culprit of drafty homes and rooms that are either too hot or too cold—your home's insulation.

When correctly installed along with sealing all leaks and ducts (we'll discuss this in our September issue) your home's insulation can provide you with comfort and lower energy bills even during the coldest and hottest months.

Types of Insulation—

- ⇒ Fiberglass Insulation—comes in varying R-values and widths, made from mineral fibers
- ⇒ Blown-in Insulation—loose-fill insulation—comes in various varieties—loose fibers, fiber pellets, cellulose (the 'green' solution). Providing it's thick enough Blown-in insulation can offer additional protection against air infiltration
- ⇒ Foamed-in-place—a foam insulation that is applied by a professional—this

- ⇒ foam can also help reduce air leaks
- ⇒ Rigid Insulation—otherwise known as Styrofoam—can be faced with a reflective foil that will reduce heat flow when next to an air space
- ⇒ Reflective Insulation—made from aluminum foil with a variety of backings—is most effective in reducing a downward heat flow so it is best used in floor joists, roof rafters, or wall studs. If you are using it to reduce summer heat gain you would place it in the attic reflective side up—more effective in hot climates than cool

Getting the biggest bang for your buck—

The easiest, and most profitable, place to add insulation is your attic. A quick way to test if you need more insulation is to take a look in your attic:

- ⇒ If your insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists you probably need to add insulation

Recommended insulation level for most attics:

- ⇒ R-38—or about 12–15 inches, depending on insulation type
- ⇒ R-48—recommended for the coldest climates

Many older homes have less insulation than they should.

Doing it Right



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Insulation levels for the rest of the house—

- ⇒ Wood Frame Outer Walls: R-22—R-28
- ⇒ Floor: R-25
- ⇒ Basement/ Crawlspace Walls: R-13—R-19

Overlooked places for insula- tion—

An often overlooked area of your home where energy can be saved is the ductwork and water lines.

Water lines and ductwork running through unfinished, unheated or uncooled spaces in your home, such as attics or crawlspaces should be insulated.

- ⇒ Be sure to check for leaks before insulating
- ⇒ Wrap ducts with a duct wrap insulation of R-6 with vapor retarder facing outside, R-4 if living in a warm climate

- ⇒ All joints should be tightly sealed with fiber glass tape, be sure not to compress the insulation
- ⇒ Return air ducts—should be sealed off from any passageways that connect to unheated areas of your home

By improving the insulation factor you reduce the energy needed for heating and cooling. It just makes good sense.

Upcoming Topics

- ⇒ Sealing the Leaks
- ⇒ Sealing the Ductwork
- ⇒ Appliance Energy Savings

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