

Resources and references

Cash Incentives for energy-efficiency home improvements for NW Natural Gas customers

www.energytrust.org/Washington

Carbon Monoxide

U.S. EPA

www.epa.gov/iaq/co.html

Consumer Products Safety Commission

www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/466.html

Clark County Energy Efficiency Services

www.PlanetClark.com

www.clark.wa.gov/development

Clark Public Utilities - Your Home

www.clarkpublicutilities.com/yourhome

Indoor air quality, tips on building and maintaining a healthy house

EPA Indoor Air Plus

www.epa.gov/indoorairplus/index.html

American Lung Association Health House

www.healthhouse.org

National Center for Healthy Housing

www.nchh.org

EPA Citizen's Guide to Radon

www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html

Inspecting your insulation

[www.energysavers.gov/your_home/insulation_airsealing/index.cfm/](http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/insulation_airsealing/index.cfm/mytopic=11350)

[mytopic=11350](http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/insulation_airsealing/index.cfm/mytopic=11350)

Reducing Home Air Leaks

www.clarkpublicutilities.com/yourhome/freeResources/archives/airLeaks.pdf

U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Savers Booklet

www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/pdfs/energy_savers.pdf

Internet search keywords and phrases

Healthy cleaning products, green cleaning products, energy efficient appliances, how to clean a clothes dryer vent, combustion appliance safety, indoor air pollution, energy efficient lighting

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Energy saving tips and Money saving measures for your home



Keep heat in your house

Check for air leaks in your house. Turn up the heat on a cold morning, wet the back of your hand and feel around your doors, windows, and electrical outlets for cold air. If you feel a draft make sure doors and windows close properly and the weather stripping is in good shape. Adjust thresholds on exterior doors if that is an option. In your crawl space look at plumbing pipe penetrations under sinks and tubs, spray foam works great for these gaps. Leaky outlets can be remedied with inexpensive foam gaskets from a hardware store.

Check insulation levels in your attic.

Blown in fiberglass insulation has an R value of 2.5 per inch; blown in cellulose (ground up newspaper) insulation has an R value of 3.5 per inch. You should have at least an R-30 insulation level (12" fiberglass, 9" cellulose) evenly distributed throughout the attic floor. An insulation contractor can add more insulation if needed and cash incentives are available from your utility company.

Check the opening into your attic and crawl space.

Make sure the weatherstripping is in good condition and the door itself is insulated.

Check your floor for insulation. The most common floor insulation in existing houses is R-19 (around 6" thick) which

is adequate. If there is no insulation or only 3-4 inches (R-11) there are incentives available from utilities to add floor insulation. Make sure it is not hanging down creating cold spots on your floor. Adding insulation to a floor is fairly easy for the home owner although not a fun job.



Source: U. S. Department of Energy

Sources of air leaks in your home

Areas that leak air into and out of your home cost you lots of money. These areas refer to the diagram on the cover.

- 1- Dropped ceiling
- 2- Recessed light
- 3- Attic entrance
- 4- Sill plates

- 5- Water and furnace flues
- 6- All ducts
- 7- Door frames
- 8- Chimney flashing
- 9- Window frames
- 10- Electrical outlets and switches
- 11- Plumbing and utility access

Fresh air, safe air

Switching to healthy indoor cleaning products can greatly improve the indoor air quality in your home. Healthy cleaning products have natural ingredients and are available locally and online. Make sure you run your exhaust fans in the bath, utility room and kitchen as needed to remove water vapor and harmful air pollutants.

If your home has combustion appliances (like gas water heaters or wood burning fireplaces) or an attached garage, install a Carbon Monoxide (CO₂) detector in the area outside your sleeping rooms according to the detector's installation instructions.

Consult with an air sealing contractor to perform Combustion Area Zone and fresh air supply testing prior to air sealing your house. This is particularly important if you have combustion appliances or if you plan to do extensive air sealing. These tests will help ensure safe operation of your combustion appliances and maintain the proper amount of fresh air supply for

your family. Visit www.PlanetClark.com for a list of contractors.

Appliances

Replace old appliances with appliances that have an Energy Star. Clark Public Utilities has incentives for their customers who buy Energy Star products. See the back page for a link to their incentives.

Keep the evaporator coils underneath your refrigerator clean. First unplug the refrigerator and remove the toe kick cover. With a long narrow nozzle on your vacuum or a refrigerator coil brush, carefully brush or vacuum away the dust from the coils and cooling fins.

Check your clothes dryer vent. Remove all lint from the vent pipe and the vent cap located outside. Clean the dryer lint filter after each use.

Lights

Use compact fluorescent bulbs in place of incandescent bulbs. The quality of light has improved drastically since their early blueish light days.

Motion sensors on exterior light fixtures can save a significant amount of energy. They can also be installed in interior light switches.