

Upgrade Efficiently



- Don't miss any easy opportunities to make energy-related upgrades that make sense as a part of your project. For instance, if you're replacing drywall on exterior walls anyway, you don't want to miss a chance to air-seal and insulate those walls – when the cost of doing it later will be much higher.

Getting Started

Find the right contractor: If you need to talk with a contractor who's an expert on home energy efficiency – not just a generalist who installs cabinets and hangs drywall – use the Building Performance Institute (BPI) website to find an energy expert near you. The contractors in the BPI network are licensed and certified to BPI standards, specializing in home energy upgrades.

Discover available incentives: If you want to make sure that you don't miss out on free government or utility money for your project, use the US Department of Energy's (DOE) DSIRE™ website for Financial Incentives for Energy Efficiency. This will help you find all the federal, state, local, utility and private sources of funding you can apply to your project. The DOE updates these listings incentives on a regular basis for each state.

Explore energy efficiency: If you'd like to learn more about specific home energy topics, check out all the educational resources on popular residential energy efficiency topics in the MyHomeWorks Efficiency Center. You may choose to begin your exploration by using the MyHomeWorks Energy Calculator. In just a few minutes you can determine the efficiency of your home, and discover what areas of your home have the greatest opportunity for energy improvement

Overview

Are you remodeling or doing an energy efficiency upgrade to your house already? You should make sure that you get all the money you're entitled to from the government for your project and that you find all the opportunities to save energy that make sense for the scope of your project.

Defining Your Goals

Whether you're doing a major remodel or you're just making energy efficiency-related upgrades to your house already, you should have two goals in mind:

- Find and use all possible tax rebates, government incentives and low-cost financing options that are out there. The government is supporting hundreds and even thousands of different incentive programs that you can use to pay for efficiency upgrades in your remodel.