Save energy with insulation

Good to know

Ice dams and high energy bills are sure signs that you don't have enough insulation. If your home doesn't have adequate insulation, you may be losing up to 25% of your heating or cooling energy. Consider insulation like a hat and coat for your home: it keeps the warm air in and makes you more comfortable.

ENERGY STAR® reports that most homes in the United States don't have enough insulation and have significant air leaks. In fact, if you added up all the leaks, holes and gaps in a typical home's envelope, it would be the equivalent of having a window open every day of the year.

Why insulate?

Sealing air leaks and adding insulation helps achieve the following in your home*:

- Reduces the cost of heating and cooling by 40% (insulation helps in the summer, too)
- Reduces noise from outside
- Reduces pollen, dust and insects from entering your home
- Lowers the chance for ice dams on the roof/eves in snowy climates
- Improves humidity control
- Improves the overall comfort of your home

To help offset the cost of sealing air leaks and adding and installing insulation, Xcel Energy offers rebates for qualifying projects. Rebates equal up to 30% of the total cost of the insulation up to $750. And as a bonus, insulation typically pays for itself in reduced energy bills over the course of five to six years.

Before you start

Customers must use an insulation contractor who has an Air Leakage Control (ACI) certification through BPI (Building Performance Institute, Inc.). Before starting your insulation project visit Xcel Energy's website to select a qualified BPI insulation contractor. For other program rules, requirements and information please visit **xcelenergy.com/HomeRebates**.

Rebate eligibility

- A participating insulation/air sealing contractor must complete all air sealing and insulation upgrades. Self installs do not qualify for a rebate.
- You must be a residential, natural gas customer or electric heating customer whose primary heart source is electricity in Minnesota.
- See the program page at xcelenergy.com/eligibility for complete program rules and requirements.

*Source: Dept. of Energy

Business Solutions Center **855.839.8862** Minnesota

Should I add insulation?

If you're wondering whether you need insulation, here are general guidelines to consider:

- If your home was built prior to 1950 and you haven't added insulation, you could be using about 60% more energy per square foot, than homes built in 2000 or later.
- You are uncomfortably cold in the winter or hot in the summer—insulation creates a more uniform temperature and increases comfort.
- You are bothered by noise from outside—insulation muffles sound.
- You have humidity issues in your home—insulation helps control humidity.

Sealing air leaks

Improving your home's insulation and sealing air leaks are the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste and make the most of your energy dollars. Be sure to seal air leaks before you insulate, because insulating materials won't block leaks.

Air leaks can waste a lot of your energy dollars. One of the quickest energy- and money-saving tasks you can do is caulk, seal, and weather strip all seams, cracks, and openings to the outside.

Some common sources of air leaks:

- Dropped ceiling
- Attic entrance
- All ducts
- Door and window frames
- Plumbing and utility access

A variety of materials

Insulation is made from a variety of materials, and it usually comes in four types: rolls and batts, loose-fill, rigid foam, and foam-in-place.

To learn more and get started with attic and air sealing or wall insulation, please visit **xcelenergy.com** or **energystar.gov**.