



Insulation: Don't Let Your Dough Go Through the Roof

Situation

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/eaves in snowy climates
- Improves humidity control
- Improves the overall comfort of your home

*Source: Dept. of Energy

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 20% of the total cost of the insulation with a maximum of \$300. And as a bonus, insulation typically pays for itself in reduced energy bills over the course of five to six years.

Before you start

As of Jan. 1, 2015, customers must go through a Building Performance Institute, Inc. (BPI) Residential Building Envelope Whole House Air Leakage Control Installer (RBE-WHALCI) insulation contractor to qualify for rebates through Xcel Energy's programs. It is recommended that you start with Xcel Energy's website to select a qualified BPI RBE-WHALCI insulation contractor. Please visit xcelenergy.com/HomeRebates for more details.

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.

Get more info

To learn more and get started with roof, wall or floor insulation, please visit xcelenergy.com or energystar.gov.