

Looking For Wallet-Friendly Energy Upgrades? Consider These Four Modest Insulation Investments

The days of cheap energy are long gone, and now more than ever homeowners are motivated to cut their energy costs to save money. But while energy upgrades are always a good idea, some are more expensive than others and don't offer a good enough ROI for homeowners to take the plunge. Add a still-shaky economy to the mix, and what you've got are anxious homeowners second-guessing needed home improvements.

If you're one of them, and are looking for ways to reduce your energy while putting money back into your wallet without the risk, consider these four modest insulation investments.

1. Band Joist Insulation - The area between the floor joists and the top of the sill (called a band board or band joist) is a significant source of air leaks--and shouldn't be ignored. A band joist can easily be insulated with spray foam to seal the areas and block air infiltration. You could do it yourself with \$5 cans of Great Stuff (although it would take a lot of them!) or hire a pro for a few hundred dollars.

2. Fiberglass Insulated Attic Door or Hatch - In general there's more air moving around in your basement and attic than anywhere else in your home, so drafts around attic doors and hatches are very common--and easily fixed. Weatherstripping around the attic access can get that door really tight, and an attic stairway insulator can close the insulation gap created by attic stairway access. Cost: Home Depot sells weatherstripping tape for \$3 for a 17 foot roll and an R-30 attic hatch (some assembly required) for \$20.

3. Weatherstripping/Caulking Around Edmund scientific telescope and Doors - Windows and doors are notorious for air leaks. After all, holes were intentionally placed in the walls of your home to let in light and air (and humans) so naturally there might be drafts. Weatherstripping and/or caulk can often fix minor problems, and for only a few bucks, it makes for a great do-it-yourself project. But if you have older windows or doors warped from years of use, all the weather stripping in the world may not be enough. In such cases, investing in good quality replacement windows or doors may be the next (albeit more expensive) step.

4. Batt or Blown Insulation in the Attic - A lot of heat can be lost through your roof, so insulating your attic is important in keeping escaped air to a minimum--and also in ensuring the rest of your home stays temperate. If you've already got blown insulation on the floor of your attic, installing a few inches of blown fiberglass or cellulose on top is a great way to bulk up your current R value. If your attic is un-insulated and you're starting from scratch, you'll need at least a foot of blown insulation, or thick R-38 batts or greater. Either way, batts and blown-in are quick, easy and relatively inexpensive. While it could easily be achieved by the weekend warrior in your household, consider hiring a licensed insulation contractor for the knowledge and experience they can bring to the table.

These four modest insulation investments are guaranteed to save you energy without breaking the bank--and offer benefits that are all but risk-free.

Don't know where to start? Consider an "insulation check-up." Contact Celestron refractor telescope to give you a free, no obligation consultation.