

Weatherization: Deal or No Deal?
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Mimi Burbage & Cary Bolling
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) Energy Specialists

What's a good energy deal?

Offer #1

Replace your old windows with new energy efficient ones and you will yield tremendous energy savings.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No Deal!

Air leakage is typically the major source of heat loss and only about 15% of air leakage is through windows.

If you replace a single pane with storm window with a typical double glazed, you may not have lowered conduction heat losses at all.

The big heat loss from air leaks are holes into the attic and the rim joist on foundation walls.

Offer #2

Caulk around the outside of the house and the house will be as tight as you can get it.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No Deal!

Caulking outside keeps rain out of the building.

Caulking on the inside is the only sure way to reduce air leakage.

Offer #3

Heat rises, so insulate your attic, and your home will be well insulated.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No deal...sort of...

Heat radiates in all directions, so insulation all around the house is important, not just the attic.

Hot air rises and the attic is easiest to insulate, so insulate there BUT ONLY AFTER YOU SEAL AIR LEAKS!

To be adequately insulated, a home must have walls and basement insulation.

Offer #4

Your basement isn't insulated, but dirt is a good insulator, so you don't need to add any insulation there.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No Deal!

If your attic and walls are insulated, an uninsulated basement can account for 1/3 of your heating bills.

Your aboveground basement walls have about the same insulation value as a double pane window.

Offer #5

Add new siding with a 1/2" of insulation behind it, and you will get significant energy savings.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No Deal!

New siding itself has little insulation value.

A 1/2" of foam board may only add about R-2 insulation value to the wall.

There are usually more cost effective improvements than this one.

Offer #6

Warm up the house faster by turning the thermostat up to 75-80 degrees initially.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No Deal!

The house warms at the same rate no matter what temperature you set on the thermostat.

Setting it higher can cause the heating system to overshoot, wasting energy.

Offer #7

Install a ceiling fan on an 8' ceiling to keep warm air from accumulating and save considerable energy.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No deal...maybe

In a tight well-insulated house, there may be little or no difference in air temperature from floor to ceiling.

Running a fan may cause you to feel a draft, causing you to turn up the heat.

In a house with a taller, vaulted ceiling, a fan may be helpful.

Ceiling fans go clockwise in winter

Offer #8

Save the most energy by leaving fluorescent lights on when you leave the room.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No Deal!

Fluorescent lights use little energy when turned on and wear on the light is small. They should be shut off when not needed.

Offer #9

Add insulation to your attic and increase attic ventilation to stop icing problems on the roof.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No Deal!!!

The major cause of icing problems is air leakage into the attic.

Adding insulation and attic ventilation without sealing air leaks may not get rid of the icing and may cause other problems.

PRIORITIZE: Seal first, add insulation, then add ventilation.

Offer #10

When you replace your 10 year old+ refrigerator, replace with an Energy Star labeled one.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

Deal!

Up to 50% savings

Offer #11

When replacing your old washing machine, buy an Energy Star labeled one.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

Deal!

70% Energy Savings per load !

(and you'll use 50% less water, too!)

Offer #12

Seal up the home to control the ventilation better.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

Deal!

In a home which is tightly sealed, it is easier to design, install and control the ventilation.

All houses need ventilation.

The key is to "build tight, ventilate right".

Tight houses with no ventilation and loose houses with no ventilation can cause problems.

Make sure exhaust fans are vented outside (NOT into your attic)!

Offer #13

Seal up ducts with duct tape so the furnace works efficiently.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No Deal!

Regular cloth duct tape tends to dry out. Use dust mastic or UL-181 labeled tape to seal ducts.

Offer #14

Consumer electronics and small appliances are not significant contributors to my electric bill, so don't worry about them.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No Deal!

In the average home, 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off.

Across the US, this equals the annual output of 12 power plants and costs consumers over \$1 billion each year.

Left unchecked, by 2010, the energy use from consumer electronics and small appliances could account for almost 30 percent of a typical home's electricity bill.

Offer #15

Recessed light fixtures have little impact on my home's durability and efficiency, so leave them be.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No Deal!

One recessed light fixture may account for: \$5-30 energy loss/year & is a conduit for movement of about 1/3 gallon of water daily into cold attic or 50-60 gals over 5-6 months of cold weather.

Replace With Airtight Insulation Contact (AIC) fixture or replace with another type of fixture.

Offer #16

The terms "energy conservation" and "energy efficiency" can be used interchangeably.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

No Deal!

Conservation is cutting back.

Efficiency is doing more with less.

FINAL Offer!

Contact the AHFC Research Information Center for energy information.

DEAL or NO DEAL?

DEAL!!!

AHFC Research Information Center

1-907-330-8164

1-800-478-4636

www.ahfc.us