

Sealing Air Leaks in Your Home

Why we care

The recent oil spill in the Gulf is a grim reminder of the importance of reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Unless you heat your home with wood or solar energy, you are using fossil fuel. About 40–50 percent of the energy used in the home is for space heating, so sealing the shell of your home against air leaks is one of the most cost-effective ways to increase energy efficiency.

Simple, positive change

- The Energy Trust of Oregon offers an online Home Energy Analyzer. You'll receive a calculation of your home's carbon footprint and energy-saving tips.
- Schedule a Home Energy Review through the Energy Trust. An expert conducts a one-hour inspection and will install energy saving compact fluorescent light bulbs, showerheads, and faucet aerators as well as suggest weatherization measures such as air sealing, duct sealing, and insulation. See <http://energytrust.org/residential/evaluate-your-home/>.
- Schedule a Home Performance with Energy Star test using the Energy Trust's list of contractors. This comprehensive home assessment takes 3-4 hours and costs between \$300-\$900. You will receive a customized report of what you need and how much you could save if your home were running at peak performance.
- For do-it-yourselfers, there are helpful Web sites:
http://www.rmi.org/rmi/Library/2004-13_HEB1BuildingEnvelope
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=diy.diy_index
http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=home_improvement.hm_improvement_ducts
- If a contractor does the work, The Energy Trust offers cash rebates of up to \$400 for air sealing and duct sealing. <http://energytrust.org/residential/incentives/Weatherization>. The state also offers tax credits for duct sealing. Incentives are available for self-installs, but pre-approval is required *before* you begin.

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@earthleaders.org.