

Weatherizing Your Home

Why we care

Saying goodbye to summer can be hard, but it can also be an expensive and wasteful season. Burning fossil fuels to heat your home accounts for about 40% of home energy use. Loss of this heat costs you money and contributes to climate change. Cracks and holes in floors, walls, and ceilings are where most heat escapes, followed closely by spaces around doors and windows.

Simple, positive change

- Conduct a [do-it-yourself audit](#). Plugging air leaks with caulk or stripping materials is the first step in weatherizing. It will reduce energy costs and make your home more comfortable.
- Select a certified energy assessor from the [State of Oregon website](#) to evaluate your home and receive an energy score with recommended improvements.
- For a more customized report, contact a [contractor](#) to do a walk through and give you a bid.
 - Get several references and contact them to learn if they were satisfied with the work.
 - Check contractor's ratings by the [Oregon Better Business Bureau](#).
 - Make sure the contractor uses a calibrated blower door and either does thermographic inspections or hires another company to conduct one.
- Carry out the recommendations that make sense to you. One factor may be how many years before your investment is repaid through utility savings.
- If you choose to do the work yourself:
 - To detect and seal air leaks, see [Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Audits](#).
 - For a comprehensive guide with photos for attics and basements see [A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Energy Star Home Sealing and Insulating with Energy Star](#).

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