

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

What every contractor needs to know.





HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

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Contents

Introduction	3
Duct Repair	13
Air Sealing	85
Prep + Insulation	109
Appendix	175



INTRODUCTION

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Mission + Company History

Advanced Energy's Applied Building Science team is committed to ensuring that every home in the nation is healthy, safe, durable, comfortable, energy efficient and environmentally responsible. Our staff of building science experts provides training and consultation services to a variety of clients in the building industry. Specializing in new construction, existing home retrofit and affordable housing, our programs and partnerships with utilities, program implementers, builders, building product manufacturers, municipalities and government agencies have resulted in more than 200,000 energy-efficient homes nationwide.

With more than 30 years of experience developing and delivering effective building science products and programs, Advanced Energy is your trusted partner in helping you exceed your program or company goals. For more information about the Applied Building Science team or our training products, contact 919.857.9000 or visit www.AdvancedEnergy.org/buildings.

Created in 1980, Advanced Energy was established largely through the efforts of the North Carolina Utilities Commission with the cooperation of the state's electric utility industry. The organization supports a wide variety of clients and partners nationally and internationally, including utilities, government agencies, municipalities and other stakeholders involved with energy efficiency efforts. Our staff of experts provides training, consulting and testing services with specialized expertise in the areas of applied building science, industrial processes and commercial buildings, motors and drives and transportation. Essentially, Advanced Energy is bringing energy efficiency to your home, your workplace, the places you go and the vehicles you take to get there.

Applied Building Science



APPLIED BUILDING
SCIENCE



The applied building science training process is based on a whole-house systems approach combining technical building science knowledge with decades of experience in new construction, existing home retrofit and affordable housing. Our portfolio of *Success* training products ensures participants successfully implement what they learn by going beyond classroom instruction and providing the practical tools, methods and processes for use in the field.

Success trainings:

1. Give participants tools documenting critical details, steps and work processes to ensure successful implementation in the field
2. Link participants to Advanced Energy's 30 years of building science experience and team of experts
3. Train participants on standard work processes that increase productivity and reduce waste

MORE INFORMATION

www.AdvancedEnergy.org



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SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

What every builder needs to know.

Learn to implement code requirements right the first time with Advanced Energy's *Success With Home Energy Upgrades* training for contractors. In this course, Advanced Energy simplifies and guides contractors and installers through the process.

Topics covered during presentations:

- Introduction to major changes to the code
- Introduction to a prevention-oriented culture and establishing standard work processes
- Basic building science techniques
- Field implementation techniques for:
 - Duct Sealing
 - Duct Repair
 - Air Sealing
 - Insulation Preparation
 - Insulation Installation



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

OSHA REGULATIONS

OSHA regulations must always be followed when completing any home energy upgrades. Ensure the measures below are addressed:

- Work site operations are conducted in compliance with OSHA regulatory requirements.
- Workers are trained in the hazards of their job and the methods to protect themselves.
- Workers are provided the protective equipment needed to reduce site exposures.

EPA GUIDELINES

EPA has developed the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades to provide guidance on improving or maintaining indoor air quality and indoor environments during home energy upgrades, retrofits. It addresses these measures:

- Contaminants
- Critical Building Systems
- Safety

Health + Safety: Introduction

Home energy upgrades can decrease an occupant's energy bills while increasing the comfort of the home. However, home energy upgrade activities may negatively affect indoor air quality if appropriate health and safety measures are not put in place. It is important for an assessment to be completed prior to beginning any work. As always, it is required for all contractors to follow OSHA regulations. By law, employers and supervisors are required to ensure that:

1. Work site operations are conducted in compliance with OSHA regulatory requirements.

Site plans should address safety and health and should include precautions to address multiple construction issues. Measures an employer needs to take to evaluate existing and potential health concerns, as well as recommended actions to ensure worker safety, are also included in Table 2. Free help with developing these plans is often available from state or federal training (consulting) programs.

2. Workers are trained in the hazards of their job and the methods to protect themselves.
3. Workers are provided the protective equipment needed to reduce site exposures.

When possible, choose construction products whose manufacturers disclose all ingredients and verify that they are free of formaldehyde, mercury and other known toxic substances.

When known pollutants are being produced or disturbed during retrofit activities, follow appropriate standards (including OSHA, NIOSH, EPA lead safe, and BPI) to minimize worker and occupant exposure.

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Health + Safety Information Sheet

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed a guide specific to the home energy retrofit industry to supplement OSHA requirements. This guide, the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades provides practical guidance on improving or maintaining indoor air quality and indoor environments during home energy upgrades, retrofits or remodeling.

These protocols apply to existing single-family and multi-family low-rise residential buildings and are intended for use by the home energy retrofit industry. They provide guidance for conducting home assessments and undertaking the responses necessary to maintain or improve indoor air quality and safety. The protocols also can help improve the quality of home weatherization projects and other energy-efficiency retrofit or remodeling jobs, thus reducing failures and call-backs.

The full document may be found in the appendix or online here:

http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pdfs/epa_retrofit_protocols.pdf

Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols

The Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades includes the topics listed below:

- Contaminants

This section contains information on common contaminants, such as lead, mold, asbestos, pests and radon. For each contaminant, it provides information on how to assess if the contaminant exists and how to mitigate issues.

- Critical Building Systems For Healthy Indoor Environments

This section contains information on heating and ventilation systems in a home. Each measure provides a list of items



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Health + Safety Information Sheet

to assess and actions to take if the measure is not working properly.

- Safety

This section contains information on creating a safe environment for both the occupants and the contractors completing home energy upgrades.

In the appendix, we have included the complete Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades for your use. We recommend that both assessors and installers keep the guide with them during on-site visits for guidance. Note this document should be used in addition to OSHA regulations.

Occupant Health + Safety

Advanced Energy believes that every retrofit project should result in a more healthy, safe, comfortable, durable, energy efficient and environmentally responsible home. We also believe a house is a system, meaning all parts of the house are interactive and interdependent. Proper air sealing of a house includes ensuring combustion appliances work properly and considering fresh air ventilation. It's important to realize air sealing can affect each part of the house in an adverse way, creating unhealthy conditions for the occupants, durability issues for the home and considerable risk and liability for you the retrofit contractor.

DUCT REPAIR



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What every contractor needs to know.



Duct Repair + Sealing Contents

Duct repair and sealing is a challenging and important job. Done right it can bring increased comfort, safety and health to the home's occupant while saving them money on their heating and cooling bills. The purpose of this guide is to assist you, the duct repair and sealing professional, with getting the job done right the first time – every time. Below is a list of provided materials in this section

Health + Safety	17
Duct Sealing Checklist.....	19
Critical Detail: Sealing Ducts	23
Additional Job Aids	
Critical Detail: Installing Metal Ducts	25
Critical Detail: Installing Flex Ducts	27
Critical Detail: Installing Duct Support for Flex Ducts	29
Critical Detail: Installing Duct Straps.....	31
Information Sheet: Accessing Duct Leakage Sites	33
Tech Tips: Accessing Duct Leakage Sites.....	34
Critical Detail: Sealing Small, Medium + Large Holes	37
Critical Detail: Installing Bar-faced Return Grilles	47



Health + Safety Information Sheet

Health + Safety: Introduction

The introduction to this manual introduced EPA's Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades. The document is a useful tool for finding solutions for common issues that arise when completing home energy upgrades. This page will highlight some important details in the document in relation to safety when duct sealing.

Health + Safety: Worker Safety

As mentioned in the introduction, it is required for all contractors to follow OSHA regulations. By law, employers and supervisors are required to ensure that all workers have the correct personal protective equipment. These items include, but aren't limited to:

- Gloves
- Protective clothing
- Knee pads
- Eye protection
- Respirators: Different types of respirators are required for different jobs. Use the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades to verify that your current respirator is compliant with the job.
- Non-contact voltage detectors

Tip: It is important to keep your PPE in good condition. Having a bag that stores all of your PPE and supplies for cleaning the items will save you time and keep you safe.

Health + Safety: Health Hazards

It is important to look for hazards and create a mitigation plan before beginning work. The list below highlights the most important items to identify and mitigate for all duct repair jobs:

- Sewer gases, fuel oil, chemicals and other pollutants in crawl spaces or attics
- Mold-like growth in attics and crawl spaces
- Presence of pest/rodents in crawl spaces or attics
- Lack of CO alarm in all houses with combustion appliances and attached garages
- Unvented combustion appliances
- Duct tapes and wrappings that are likely to contain asbestos

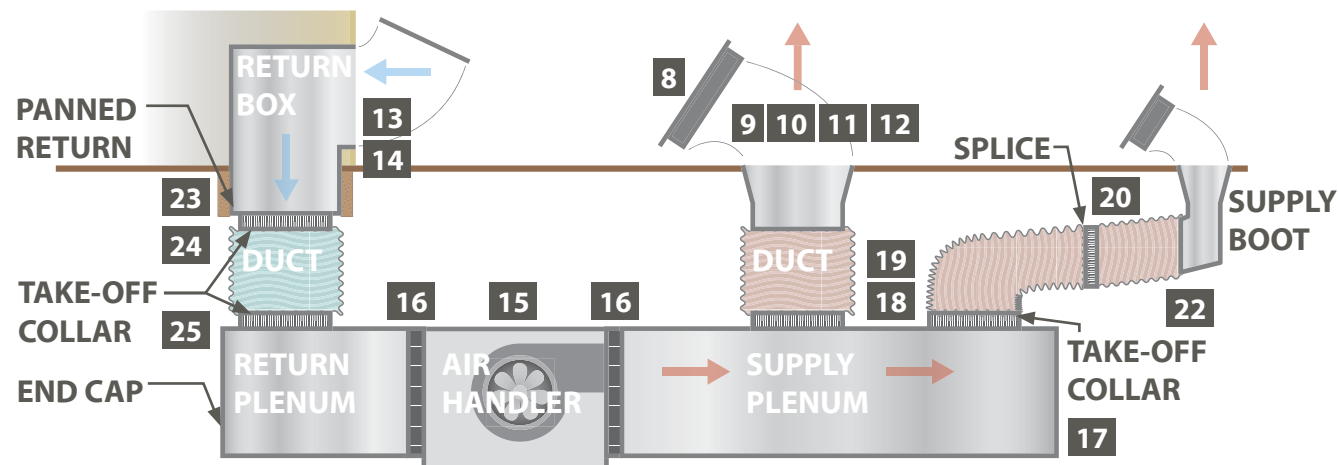
If any of these conditions exist, follow action items listed in the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades before beginning work.



CHECKLIST:

DUCT SEALING

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✓	N/A	PREP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Verify that a ventilation plan is established.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Put on all personal protection equipment (PPE).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Identify all worker and occupant safety hazards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Identify all potential durability issues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Address all combustion safety, worker safety, occupant safety and durability issues prior to starting work and notify the occupant. Do not complete work if a life safety hazard is identified.
✓	N/A	INSIDE THE LIVING SPACE
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Turn the HVAC fan on and feel for air flowing out of each supply with your hand. Note any supply lines not providing air. Turn the fan off.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Remove all supply registers and return grilles.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Fasten all supply boots to subfloor with screws.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Seal all duct inner liners to each supply boot.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Seal all seams of each supply boot.



CHECKLIST: DUCT SEALING

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. Seal all gaps between the subfloor or ceiling and the supply boot. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. Seal all seams of each return box. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Seal all gaps between the subfloor, wall or ceiling and the return box. |

✓ N/A OUTSIDE THE LIVING SPACE

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. Tape the air handler cabinet panels and seal all penetrations. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. Mechanically fasten and seal the connection between the air handler and the plenums. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 17. Mechanically fasten and seal all supply plenum seams and end caps. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 18. Mechanically fasten and seal the connection between supply take-off collars and plenums. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 19. Mechanically fasten and seal inner liner of all supply ducts to supply take-off collars. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20. Inspect all supply ducts for disconnects, tears and/or holes and pay attention to supply lines that were not providing air inside the house. Fix by reconnecting ducts and patching holes. If flex duct, remove section with hole or tear and replace with a sealed spliced collar. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 21. Fasten and seal all sectioned metal elbows to supply ducts and take-off collars. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 22. Fasten and seal inner liner of all supply ducts to supply boots. Skip this step if sealed from inside the living space. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 23. Seal all panned returns. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 24. Inspect all return ducts for disconnects, tears and/or holes. Fix by reconnecting, patching or fastening ducts together then sealing the connections. If flex duct, remove section with hole or tear and replace with a sealed spliced collar. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 25. Seal the connection between supply take-off collars and plenums. |

✓ N/A CLOSE OUT

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 26. Clean the work area. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 27. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28. Educate occupants on the work completed. |

JOB INFORMATION

Name

Initials



DUCT SEALING GUIDELINES

1/4-inch or less (small)

BEFORE



BEFORE



BEFORE





CRITICAL DETAIL: SEALING DUCTS

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DESIRED OUTCOME: Ducts and plenums sealed to prevent leakage.

MATERIALS

Mastic

Fiberglass mesh tape

Duct tape

Sheet metal

Support material

Screws

TOOLS

Utility Knife or Scissors

Mastic brush

Tin Snips

Flashlight/head lamp

Drill

Duct and plenum not sealed.

✗ BEFORE



Duct and plenum sealed.

✓ AFTER



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

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SEALING DUCTS

Seal plenum with mastic. Choose the appropriate sealing technique based on hole size.

1 SEAL PLENUM



Peel back outer liner and insulation.

2 GAIN ACCESS



Install nylon tie band around inner liner using a tie band tensioning tool.

3 STRAP



Seal inner liner with mastic. Choose the appropriate sealing technique based on hole size.

4 SEAL



Replace outer liner and insulation.

5 REPLACE



Install nylon tie band around inner liner using a tie band tensioning tool.

6 STRAP



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING METAL DUCTS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Ducts properly installed and sealed to prevent leakage.

MATERIALS

TOOLS

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.

Duct not sealed.



Duct sealed and insulated.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING METAL DUCTS

Roof termination fittings: use 90° fitting first. Wall termination fittings: use a straight fitting.

If a termination is not installed, follow the exhaust fan termination installation critical detail.

Install duct pieces with crimped ends pointed in the direction of air flow. Cut pieces to fit.

For the connection between the duct and the termination, install the termination cap adaptor.

1 MEASURE + SELECT



2 INSTALL TERMINATION



3 ASSEMBLE DUCT



4 INSTALL ADAPTOR



Fasten duct connections with a minimum of three equally spaced screws.

Seal all seams and joints.

If installing duct in unconditioned space, wrap the duct with insulation and seal the seams.

Notes:

5 INSTALL SCREWS



6 SEAL WITH MASTIC



7 INSTALL INSULATION



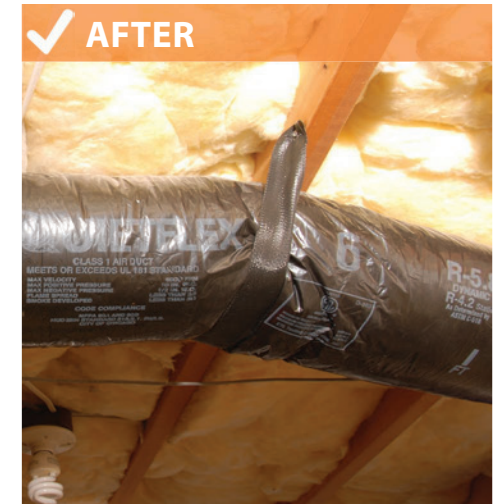


SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Duct not sealed.

Duct sealed and insulated.

TOOLS



Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

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CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING FLEX DUCTS

Roof termination fittings: use 90° fitting first. Wall termination fittings: use a straight fitting.

If a termination is not installed, follow the exhaust fan termination installation critical detail.

Measure and cut flex duct to run between the termination and the metal fitting attached to the fan.

Seal the collar of the metal duct and the termination connection with mastic.

1 INSTALL METAL DUCT



2 INSTALL TERMINATION



3 MEASURE + CUT DUCT



4 MASTIC COLLAR



Connect the flex duct at both ends using flex duct ties.

Seal each flex duct connection with mastic.

Pull flex duct insulation into place and seal with mastic.

Support the duct at least every 5 ft.

5 INSTALL ZIP TIES



6 SEAL WITH MASTIC



7 SEAL WITH MASTIC



8 SUPPORT DUCT





CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING DUCT SUPPORT FOR FLEX DUCTS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Ducts and plenums properly supported.

MATERIALS

Screws

Washers

1 1/2" wide support material

TOOLS

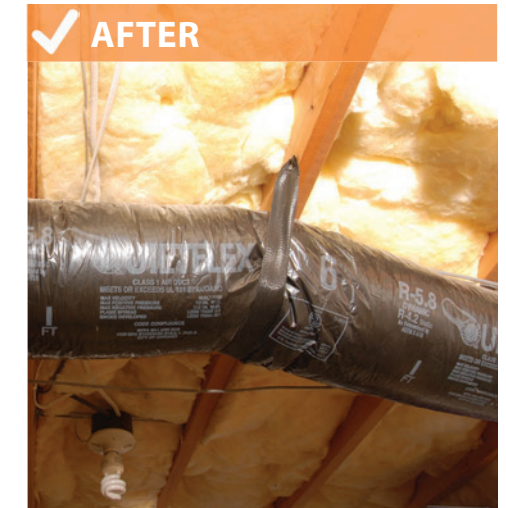
Utility Knife or Scissors

Flashlight/head lamp

Flex duct needing support straps.



Flex duct supported every 4' using a minimum of 1 1/2" wide material, creating no crimps or interior dimension reduction.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

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INSTALLING DUCT SUPPORT FOR FLEX DUCTS

Attach support material to framing (i.e., truss, rafter or joist).

Run support material under flex duct and lift into correct position.

Attach support material to framing (i.e., truss, rafter or joist).

Flex duct supported every 4' having no crimps or interior dimension reduction.

1 ATTACH SUPPORT



2 RUN SUPPORT



3 ATTACH SUPPORT



4 SUPPORT SPACING



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING DUCT STRAPS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Ducts and plenums properly fastened to prevent leakage.

MATERIALS

TOOLS

Flex-to-collar connection needing tie ban.

Joints fastened with tie bands using a tie band tensioning tool.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

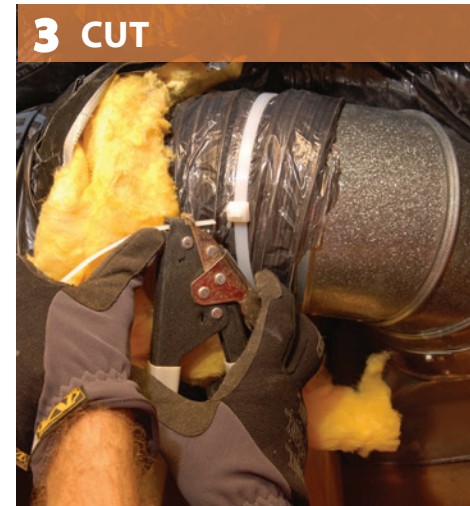
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INSTALLING DUCT STRAPS

Place tie ban being used around the connection.

Tighten tie ban using tie band tensioning tool.

Cut off tie ban tail using tie band tensioning tool.



Notes:



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

DUCT LEAKAGE SITES

These tech tips show how to access the areas listed below:

- A. Air Handler to Plenum
- B. S and Drive Connections
- C. Take Off Collar to Plenum
- D. Splices
- E. Return Platform
- F. Metal Plenums
- G. Duct Board Plenums
- H. Panned Returns
- I. Inner Liner to Boot Connections
- J. Package Units

HEALTH + SAFETY

Put on all PPE before beginning any work. Place duct tape over sharp metal edges during work.

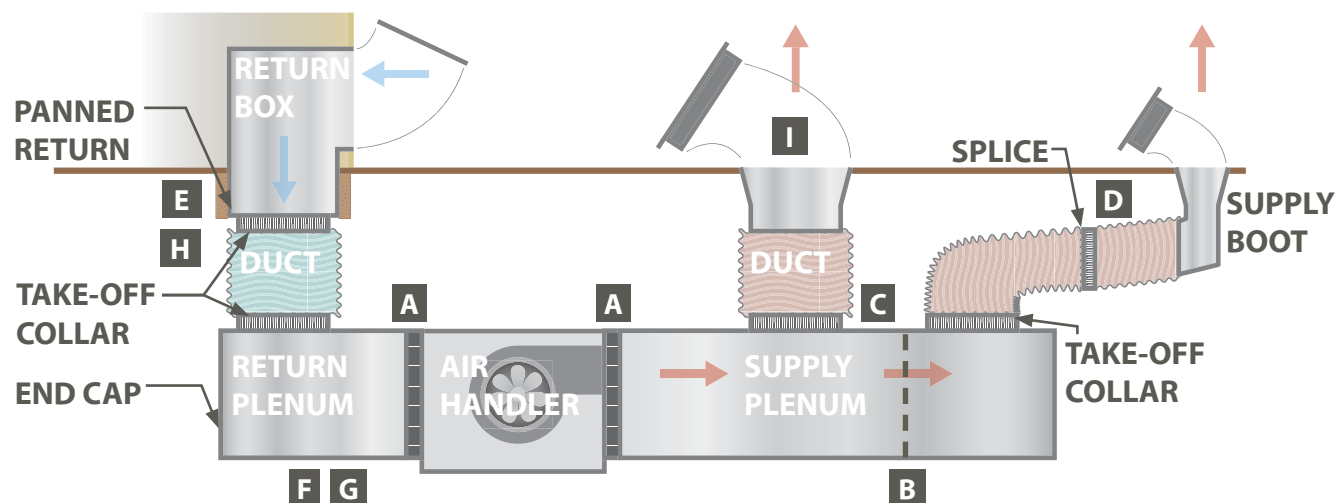
TOOLS

Be sure to have, at a minimum, these tools:

- Utility knife or Scissors
- Screwdrivers
- Drill
- Flashlight
- Cutter
- Tin snips

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Accessing Duct Leakage Sites



Introduction

One of the first steps to sealing a duct system is gaining access to the leakage site. Reference the following TECH TIPS for before and after illustrations on how and where to gain access at various duct leakage sites. Illustrations are provided for the following sites:

- A. Air Handler to Plenum
- B. S and Drive Connections
- C. Take Off Collar to Plenum
- D. Splices
- E. Return Platform
- F. Metal Plenums
- G. Duct Board Plenums
- H. Panned Returns
- I. Inner Liner to Boot Connections
- J. Package Units

Health + Safety

Prior to starting work, make sure to have all the necessary PPE equipment (gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses, etc.). While accessing these locations, place duct tape over the sharp metal edges where access holes have been cut can help protect the worker from injury.

Tools

It is important to gather all necessary materials and tools before accessing duct leakage sites. Some necessary tools include utility knives, screwdrivers, a drill, flashlights, sheet metal hole or circle cutter and tin snips.

For more information about how to seal these locations please reference our Sealing Duct Leakage Sites CRITICAL DETAILS.



TECH TIPS:

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ACCESSING DUCT LEAKAGE SITES

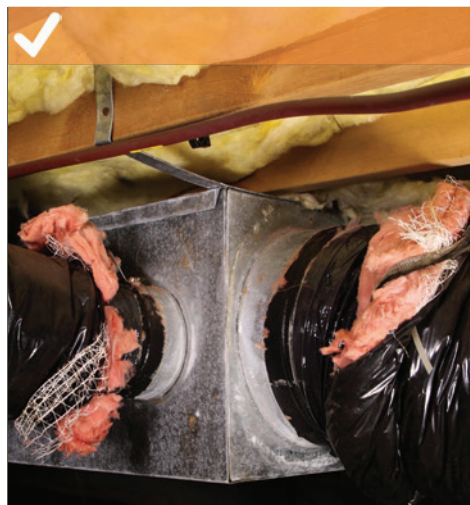
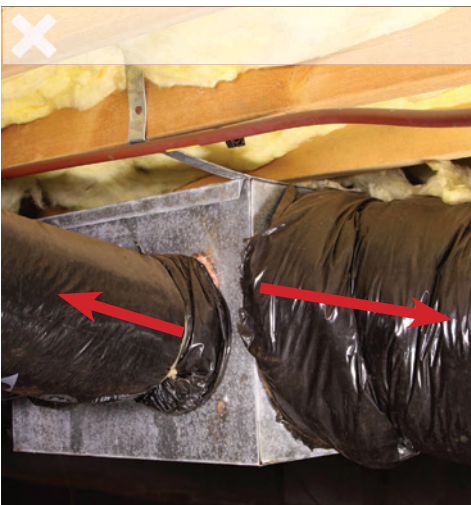
- A. Air Handler to Plenum (Externally insulated metal): Gain access to joint by peeling back plenum insulation.



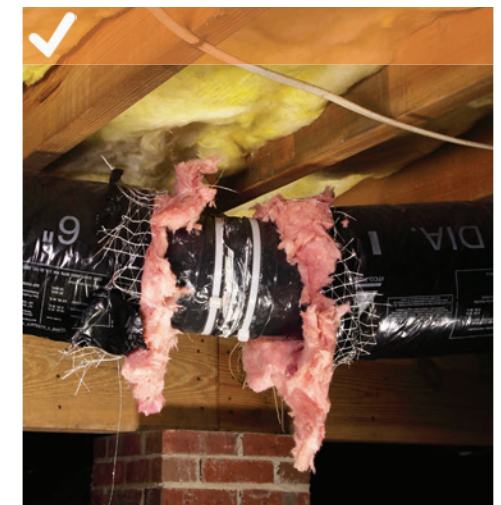
- B. S and Drive Connections in Plenum (Externally insulated metal): Gain access to joint by peeling back plenum insulation.



- C. Take Off Collar to Plenum: Gain access to joint by removing outer nylon tie band or tape and peeling back insulation.



- D. Splices: Gain access to connection by removing outer nylon tie band or tape and peeling back insulation.





TECH TIPS

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ACCESSING DUCT LEAKAGE SITES

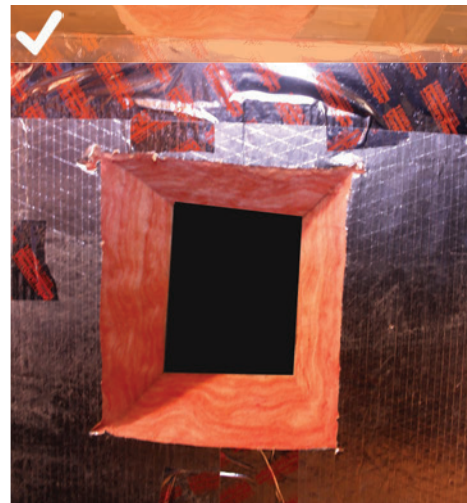
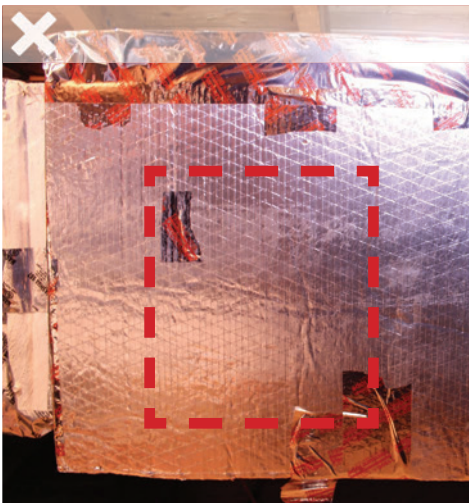
- E. Return Platform: Create temporary access hole by removing or cutting cladding of return platform.



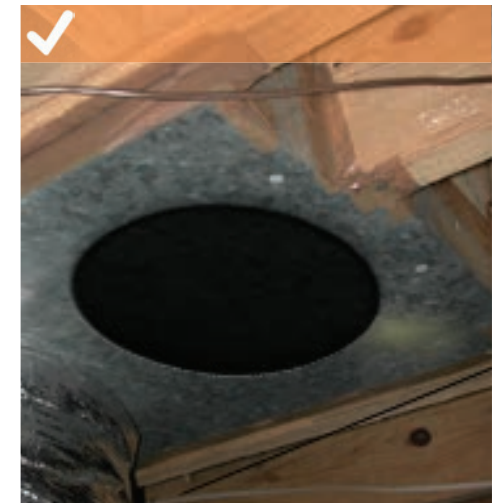
- F. Metal Plenums: Create temporary access hole by cutting hole through accessible side of plenum.



- G. Duct Board Plenums: Create temporary access hole by cutting hole through accessible side of plenum. Make sure to "pumpkin cut" for ease of patching hole.



- H. Panned Returns: Create temporary access hole by cutting hole through accessible area of return.



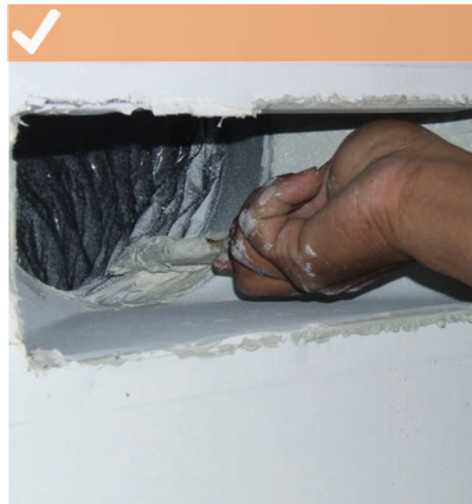


CRITICAL DETAILS:

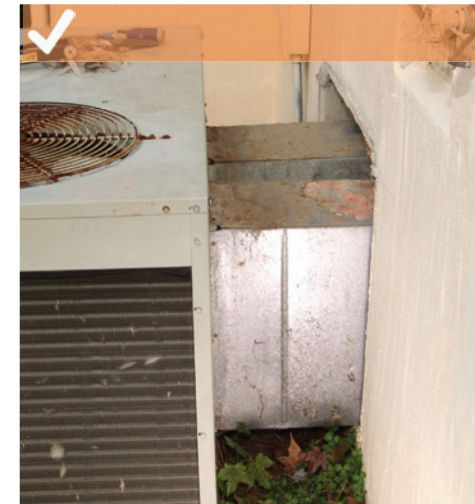
SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ACCESSING DUCT LEAKAGE SITES

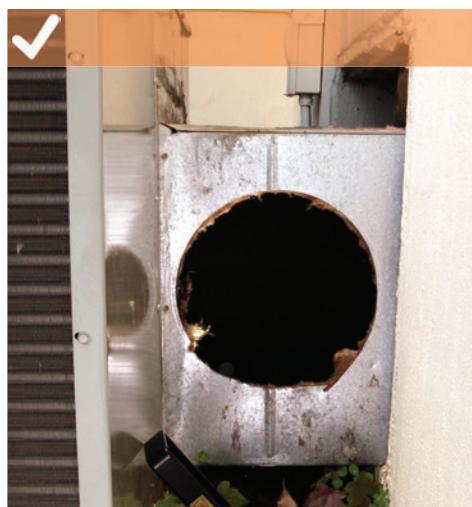
- I. Inner Liner to Boot: Gain access to connection from inside home by removing supply grill.



- J. Package Units (Ground level): Gain access to connections by removing shroud.



- J. Package Units (Ground level): Gain access to connections by removing shroud and cutting holes in supply and return ducts.



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAILS:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING SMALL, MEDIUM + LARGE HOLES

MATERIALS

Mastic

Fiberglass mesh tape

Duct tape

Sheet metal

Support material

Screws

TOOLS

Utility Knife or Scissors

Mastic brush

Tin Snips

Flashlight/head lamp

Drill

After gaining access to the leakage site, choose the appropriate sealing technique from below. Each of these step-by-step groupings illustrate a specific sealing technique based on the hole size. Please reference the vertical gray text boxes and first step of each series to ensure the correct step-by-step process is being followed. There are 3 sets to choose from:

(SMALL HOLES) - MASTIC ONLY:

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are 1/4-inch or less.

(MEDIUM HOLES) - TEMPORARY TAPE + MASTIC + MESH TAPE:

Seams, cracks joints, holes and penetrations that are 1/4-inch to 3/4-inch.

(LARGE HOLES) - RIGID SUPPORT + MASTIC + MESH TAPE:

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are larger than 3/4-inch.

SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING SMALL HOLES

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are 1/4-inch or less.

Seal with mastic.

1 SMALL HOLE



2 MASTIC



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING MEDIUM HOLES

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are 1/4-inch to 3/4-inch.

Install temporary tape over seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations.

Apply a base coat of mastic to completely cover and extend beyond tape.

Apply fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond mastic.

1 MEDIUM HOLE



2 TEMPORARY TAPE



3 MASTIC



4 MESH TAPE



Apply a second coat of mastic atop fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond tape.

5 MASTIC



Notes:

- Temporary tape can be a variety of different types of tape. It is used to prevent mastic from falling into the hole and should only be used if also using mesh tape for reinforcement.



CRITICAL DETAIL

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING LARGE HOLES

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are larger than 3/4-inch.

Install rigid duct support material that is at least 1 inch larger than the hole.

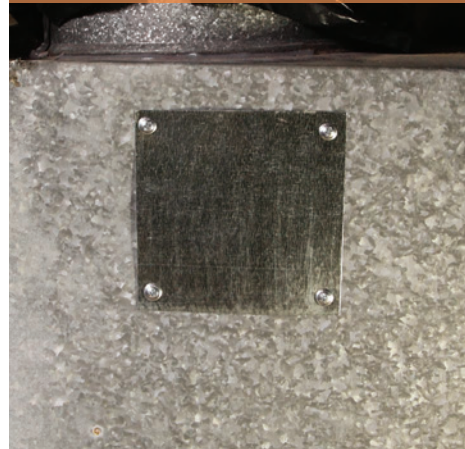
Apply a base coat of mastic to completely cover and extend beyond support material.

Apply fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond mastic.

1 LARGE HOLE



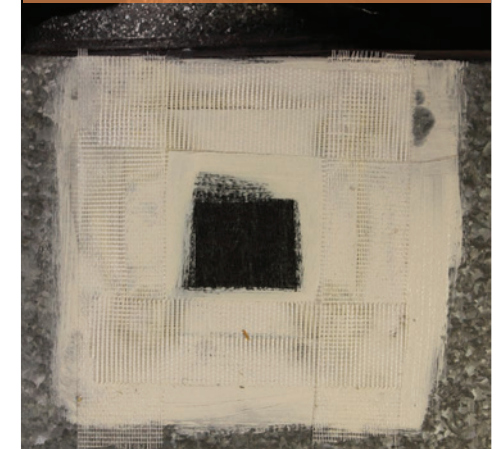
2 SUPPORT MATERIAL



3 MASTIC



4 MESH TAPE



Apply a second coat of mastic atop fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond tape.

5 MASTIC



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING LARGE HOLES

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are larger than 3/4-inch.

Install rigid duct support material that is at least 1 inch larger than the hole.

Apply a coat of mastic to completely cover and extend beyond support material.

Apply fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond mastic.

1 LARGE HOLE



2 SUPPORT MATERIAL



3 MASTIC



4 MESH TAPE



Apply a second coat of mastic atop fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond tape.

5 MASTIC



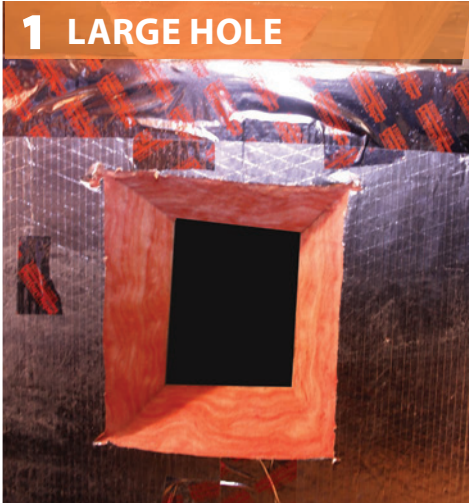
Notes:



SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are larger than 3/4-inch.

1 LARGE HOLE



Replace cut out. Make sure to "pumpkin cut" for ease of patching hole.

2 REPLACE CUT OUT



Apply a coat of mastic to completely cover and extend beyond support material.

3 MASTIC



Apply fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond mastic.

4 MESH TAPE



Apply a second coat of mastic atop fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond tape.

5 MASTIC



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING LARGE HOLES

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are larger than 3/4-inch.

Install rigid duct support material that is at least 1 inch larger than the hole.

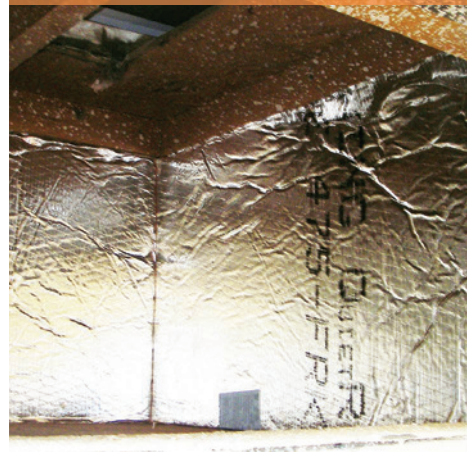
Apply a base coat of mastic to completely cover and extend beyond support material.

Apply fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond mastic.

1 HOLE SIZE



2 BACKING



3 MASTIC



4 MESH TAPE



Apply a second coat of mastic atop fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond tape.

5 MASTIC



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING FRAMED RETURN PLATFORMS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Return air sealed to minimize air leakage

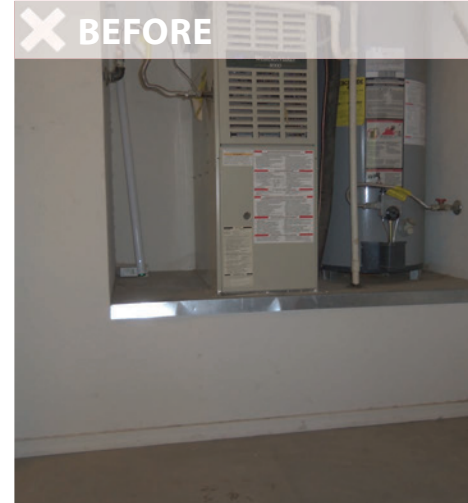
Rough frame support platform.

Platform completely lined and air sealed.

MATERIALS

Duct board

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING FRAMED RETURN PLATFORMS

Remove grille or cut access hole into framed platform.

1 ACCESS PLATFORM



Clean out debris and dirt from return platform.

2 CLEAN PLATFORM



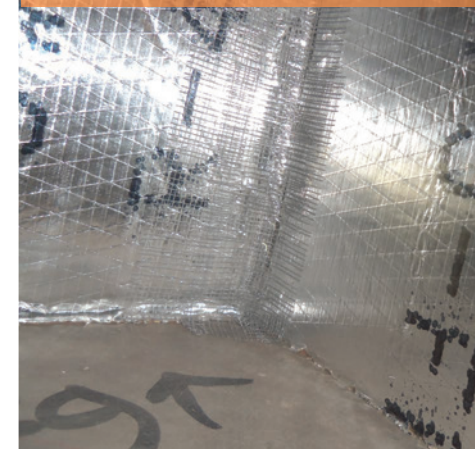
Line plenum with duct board. Mechanically fasten duct board to framing.

3 INSTALL DUCT BOARD



If gap is greater than 1/4-inch, apply temporary tape, then overlap with fiberglass mesh and mastic.

4 GAP SIZE



Seal all gaps, seams, holes and penetrations with UL181M mastic.

5 SEAL



If refrigerant and condensate lines penetrate the platform return, seal with mastic and provide infill as needed.

6 SEAL CONDENSATE



If refrigerant and condensate lines terminate to the outside, install hardware cloth or equivalent rodent barrier.

7 RODENT BARRIER



Notes:

Scrap flashing material can make great washers for use when securing duct board. If using this technique, exercise caution and make sure to wear gloves to protect your hands from the sharp edges.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

BAR-FACED GRILLE INSTALLATION

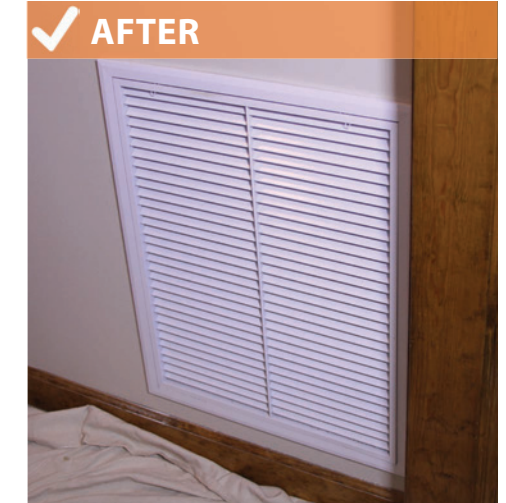
DESIRED OUTCOME: Increase air flow through the return grille

Stamp-faced return grille.

Bar-faced return grille.

MATERIALS

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

BAR-FACED GRILLE INSTALLATION

If present, score any caulk or paint sealing between return grille and interior surface.

Remove filter and grill.

If present, score any mastic or duct tape sealing between return grill flange and return. Remove screws.

Remove frame.

1 SCORE



2 REMOVE FILTER



3 REMOVE FASTENERS



4 REMOVE FRAME



Seal return to sheetrock connection.

Install new grille and filter.

Notes:

5 SEAL



6 INSTALL GRILLE



VENTILATION



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

What every contractor needs to know.



Duct Repair + Sealing Contents

Duct repair and sealing is a challenging and important job. Done right it can bring increased comfort, safety and health to the home's occupant while saving them money on their heating and cooling bills. The purpose of this guide is to assist you, the duct repair and sealing professional, with getting the job done right the first time – every time. Below is a list of provided materials in this section

Health + Safety51

Ventilation Information Sheet.....53

Pressure Balancing Information Sheet55

Additional Job Aids

Critical Detail: Installing Transfer Grilles.....57

Critical Detail: Installing Jump Ducts59



Health + Safety Information Sheet

Health + Safety: Introduction

The introduction to this manual introduced EPA's Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades. The document is a useful tool for finding solutions for common issues that arise when completing home energy upgrades. This page will highlight some important details in the document in relation to safety when duct sealing.

Health + Safety: Worker Safety

As mentioned in the introduction, it is required for all contractors to follow OSHA regulations. By law, employers and supervisors are required to ensure that all workers have the correct personal protective equipment. These items include, but aren't limited to:

- Gloves
- Protective clothing
- Knee pads
- Eye protection
- Respirators: Different types of respirators are required for different jobs. Use the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades to verify that your current respirator is compliant with the job.
- Non-contact voltage detectors

Tip: It is important to keep your PPE in good condition. Having a bag that stores all of your PPE and supplies for cleaning the items will save you time and keep you safe.

Health + Safety: Health Hazards

It is important to look for hazards and create a mitigation plan before beginning work. The list below highlights the most important items to identify and mitigate for all duct repair jobs:

- Sewer gases, fuel oil, chemicals and other pollutants in crawl spaces or attics
- Mold-like growth in attics and crawl spaces
- Presence of pest/rodents in crawl spaces or attics
- Lack of CO alarm in all houses with combustion appliances and attached garages
- Unvented combustion appliances
- Duct tapes and wrappings that are likely to contain asbestos

If any of these conditions exist, follow action items listed in the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades before beginning work.



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

VENTILATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Advanced Energy feels that mechanical outside air ventilation is an important part of HVAC systems, especially with new houses being constructed much tighter than ever before. It is important to design ventilation into the system rather than rely on infiltration from unknown holes in the building envelope.

NOTE: Mechanical exhaust ventilation is typically required by code in all bathrooms.

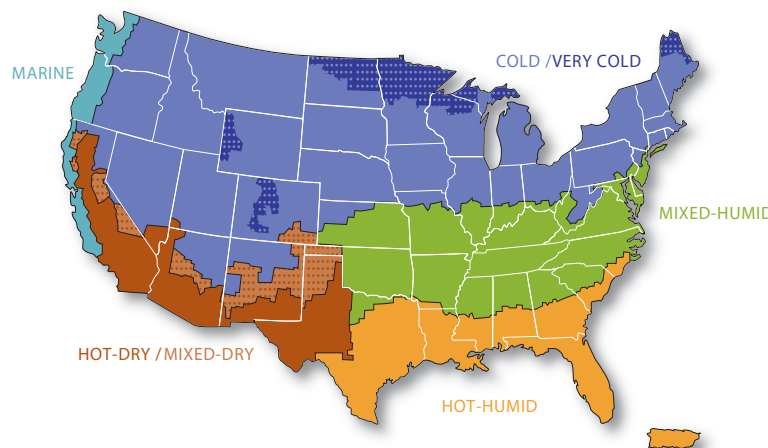
Outside Air Ventilation: Introduction

Today's construction materials and techniques all work to reduce air exchange with the outdoors making new homes relatively tight. The new 2012 North Carolina Energy Conservation code requires tighter construction than ever before. If the supply of outside air depends only on infiltration, then air quality in these new homes will suffer from stagnant, polluted air, moisture problems and dissatisfied homeowners. By establishing a mechanical ventilation system that exhausts inside air and supplies outside air, potential problems can be mitigated. While ventilation is not currently required by code, Advanced Energy recommends it to be installed as a part of any HVAC system. This information sheet presents the basics of ventilation; however, we have additional resources for HVAC contractors interested in installing mechanical ventilation.

NOTE: Mechanical exhaust ventilation is required by code in all bathrooms.

Ventilation: Climate

Climate should play a major role in determining the optimal ventilation strategy and it is advised to design a ventilation strategy that will not contribute to moisture issues. The simple



SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Ventilation Information Sheet

solution is to ensure that only the driest mass of air moves through walls and similar spaces. Knowing the climate of the home's location is necessary before selecting a ventilation strategy. The map shows different climate regions.

Ventilation: Rate

If mechanical outside air ventilation is installed, the 2012 North Carolina Mechanical Code requires certain rates:

$$(15 \text{ CFM})(\text{number of bedrooms} + 1) \text{ OR} \\ .35 \text{ air changes per hour}$$

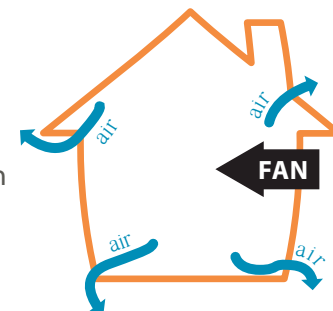
Ventilation: Types

After determining the climate of the house location and the rate of outside air ventilation, it is important to understand the appropriate types of outside air ventilation strategies. There are three different design options. Any of these three design options are appropriate for mechanical outside air ventilation; however, it is important to consider which design would work best with the climate and other systems in the home. Below are descriptions of the different types of design:

Supply-Only Ventilation

This type of system puts the home under a slight positive pressure. Fans push air into the home which is exhausted through existing pathways (existing bath and kitchen exhaust vents) or through cracks in the building shell. This strategy is best used in humid and mixed-humid climates and will prevent migration of water vapor from the outside into building cavities.

This type of ventilation system is what Advanced Energy recommends for HVAC contractors in humid climates. It is a cost-effective approach to providing ventilation.





HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

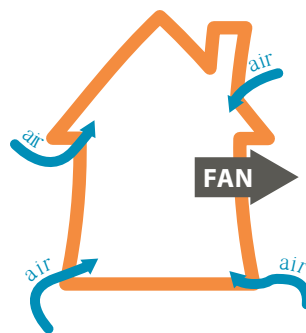
SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Ventilation Information Sheet

Exhaust-Only Ventilation

This type of system puts the home under a slight negative pressure. Fans pull indoor air out of the home while drawing outside air in through existing pathways (outside air intakes) or through cracks in the building shell. This ventilation strategy is best used in dry and cold climates where it prevents water migration of water vapor from the indoor space into building cavities. A difficulty with exhaust-only ventilation is the inability to control where the outside air is being pulled from. In humid climates, however, this ventilation strategy can lead to significant moisture problems.

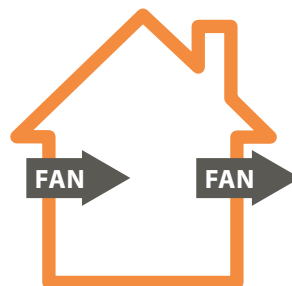
Advanced Energy does not recommend exhaust-only ventilation for humid climates. We feel that providing ventilation by exhaust fans could negatively affect the health of the house and its occupants. Outside air provided by infiltration comes from unknown sources and could contain contaminants or unwanted moisture.



Balanced ventilation is the preferred method of ventilation; however, the higher cost is often prohibitive.

Balanced Ventilation

This type of system uses an exhaust and outside air supply fan to create a balanced system. With traditional, forced air systems, this balance is often difficult to achieve. Instead, packaged systems like Energy Recovery Ventilators (ERVs) or Heat Recovery Ventilators (HRVs) are installed to achieve the balanced flow and work well with non-traditional systems, such as mini-split HVAC systems and ground-source geothermal systems. This ventilation strategy can be used in any type of climate, but is highly recommended for coastal and marine areas.





HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

PRESSURE BALANCING OPTIONS

Below is a summary of pressure balancing options:

- Undercut doors
- Dedicated return ducts
- Jump ducts
- Transfer grilles
- Combination of options listed above

These pressure balancing options may be verified by measuring each bedroom pressure differential (recommended to be < 3 Pa (0.012 in. w.c.)) with respect to the main body of the house. The test should be completed with all bedroom doors closed and the air handler on the highest fan speed.

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Pressure Balancing Information Sheet

Another method of pressure balancing is to install passive jump ducts between a bedroom and a common space. It is more cost-effective than installing dedicated returns, but will provide more privacy, noise reduction and design options than transfer grilles.

Transfer Grilles

The simplest and most cost effective form of pressure balancing is to install a transfer grille above the door into the bedroom. In addition to the simplicity and low cost, it also reduces penetrations from the interior to the exterior of the house. However, bedrooms located close to common spaces might suffer from noise or light nuisances.

Pressure Balancing: Testing

We recommend having a test completed to measure the pressure differential between each room and the main body. The easiest testing procedure is to measure a pressure differential with respect to the main body of the house. The test should be completed with all bedroom doors closed and the air handler on the highest fan speed. Each bedroom should have a pressure differential of < 3 Pa (0.012 in. w.c.) with reference to the main body of the house.

Pressure Balancing: Introduction

Pressure differentials can be caused by many forces within homes, such as duct leakage and exhaust fans, and can have a significant impact on the durability of the building and on human health and safety. Pressure balancing ensures that air distribution does not result in significant pressure differentials within the building shell – even with interior doors closed and other equipment, such as bathroom and kitchen fans, operating.

Pressure Balancing: Types

It is important to understand the different types of pressure balancing strategies and the pros and cons of each. In addition, considering which option(s) the homeowners will be most satisfied with should be a factor. There are several different design options and often the best strategy is to use multiple options to provide the necessary pressure balancing. They are described below:

Door Undercuts

Regardless of which type of pressure balancing is used, it is recommended to undercut the doors 1/2 in. to 3/4 in. above the finished floor. Many homeowners find a door undercut greater than 1 in. a potential privacy and noise issue. Therefore, it is difficult to meet the pressure balancing requirement by only using this method.

Dedicated Returns

The most effective and often the most expensive method of pressure balancing is to install dedicated returns that are directly connected to the HVAC system. To reduce costs, an active return may be installed only in large spaces or where privacy is a concern, such as master bedrooms. Active returns should be sized using Manual D and the same strategy used to design the supply system.

Jump Ducts



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES



CRITICAL DETAIL

INSTALLING WALL TRANSFERS

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

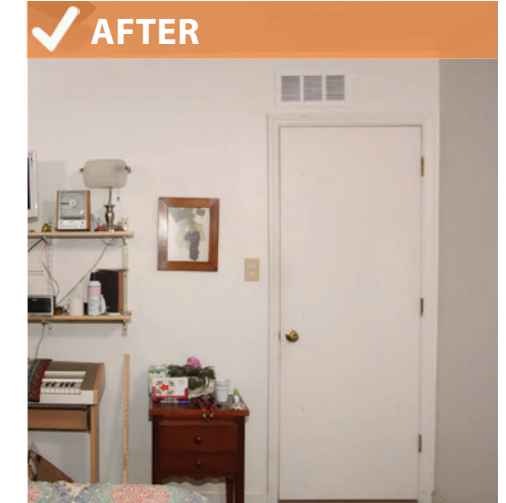
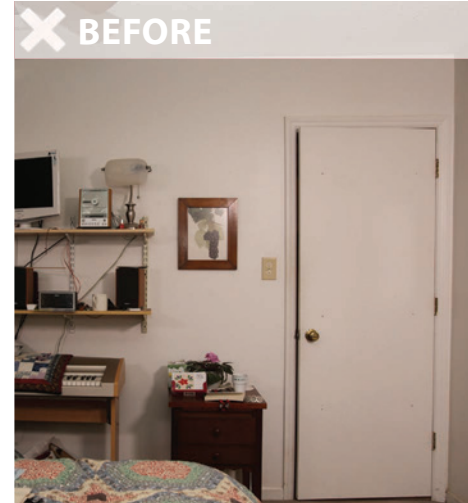
DESIRED OUTCOME: To reduce pressure between two zones.

No pressure relief.

Wall transfer installed.

MATERIALS

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

Before beginning work ensure that wall transfer materials meet the prescribed pressure relief per the scope of work. Note selection of net-free area of the grill.

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING WALL TRANSFERS

Select location.

Draw outline of hole for transfer onto drywall.

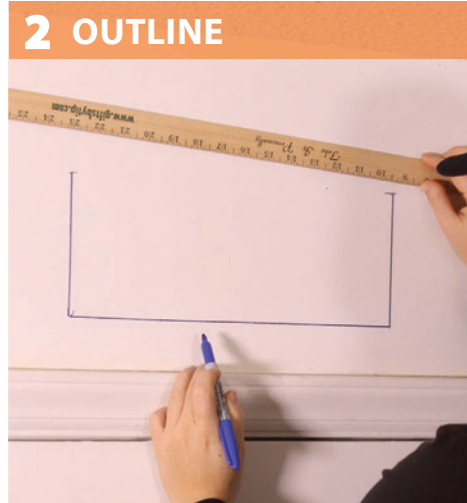
Carefully cut the transfer grill hole. Support the piece while cutting to prevent chipping or tearing.

NOTICE: If wiring, venting, plumbing, or piping are now visible, blocking and sealing must be done to separate from living space.

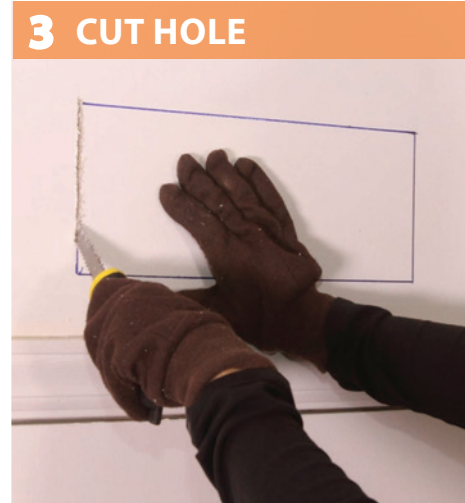
1 LOCATION



2 OUTLINE



3 CUT HOLE



4 NOTICE: BLOCKING



Seal the entire cavity

Mechanically fasten grills with louvers pointing upward.

Notes:

When determining placement of wall transfers, consider light and sound transmission issues, as well as potential blocking by furniture and doors.

5 SEAL TOP PLATE



6 INSTALL GRILLES





CRITICAL DETAIL

INSTALLING JUMP DUCTS

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

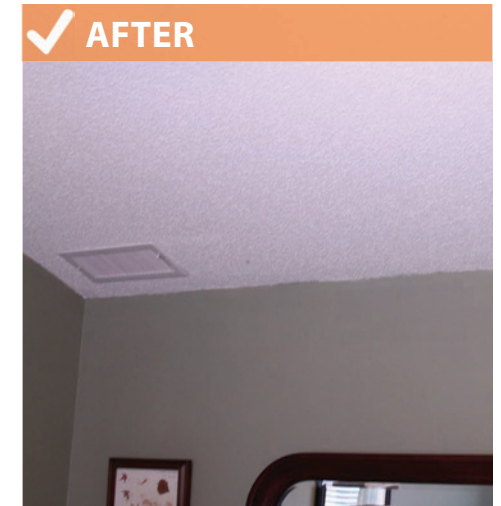
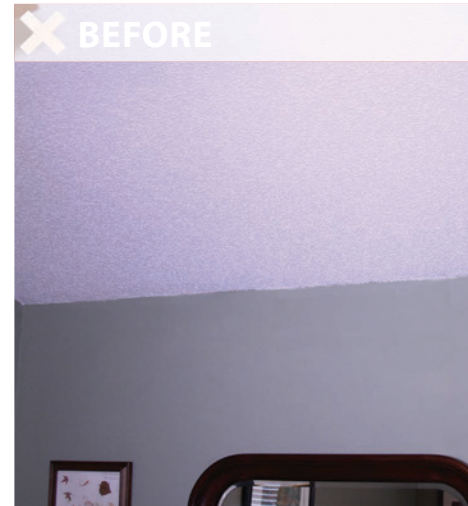
DESIRED OUTCOME: To reduce pressure between two zones.

No pressure relief.

Jump duct installed.

MATERIALS

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

Before beginning work ensure that jump duct materials meet the prescribed pressure relief per the scope of work. Note selection of boot size, duct diameter and R-value and net-free area of the grill.

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING JUMP DUCTS

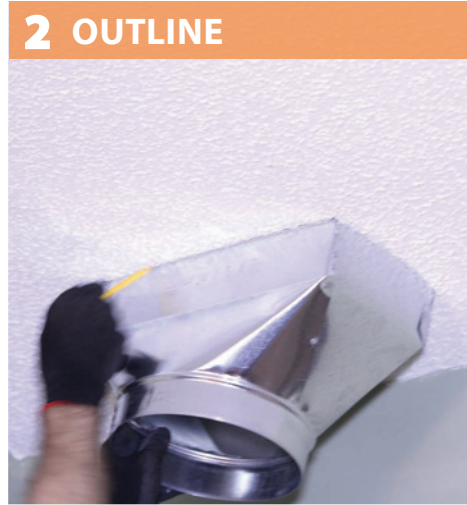
Select the jump duct location in the attic. Clear attic insulation away from work area.

1 LOCATION



Trace the outline of the boots onto the drywall.

2 OUTLINE



Carefully cut the jump duct hole. Support the piece while cutting to prevent chipping or tearing.

3 CUT HOLE



Install the jump duct boots to adjacent framing with screws or nails so boots don't bend or move.

4 INSTALL BLOCKING



Mechanically fasten, support and seal flex duct to both boots.

5 FASTEN DUCT



Replace flex duct insulation and insulate boots using duct wrap with vapor retarder.

6 INSULATION



Seal boot to drywall connection.

7 SEAL



Install grills.

8 INSTALL GRILLE



AIR SEALING



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

What every contractor needs to know.



Air sealing is a challenging and important job. Done right it can bring increased comfort, safety and health to the home's occupant while saving them money on their heating and cooling bills. The purpose of this guide is to assist you, the air sealing professional, with getting the job done right the first time – every time. Below is a list of provided materials in this section:

Health + Safety	81
Air Sealing Survey Checklist.....	83
Air Sealing Checklist.....	85
Additional Job Aids	
Critical Detail: Sealing Penetrations.....	87
Critical Detail: Sealing Knee Walls	89
Critical Detail: Sealing Tongue + Groove Ceilings.....	91
Critical Detail: Sealing Balloon Framing.....	93
Critical Detail: Capping Chases	95
Critical Detail: Capping Soffits.....	97
Critical Detail: Capping Stairwells	99
Critical Detail: Sealing Wall Penetrations.....	101



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Air Sealing Contents

Critical Detail: Sealing Cathedral Ceiling Skylights.....	103
Critical Detail: Installing Window Weatherstripping	105
Critical Detail: Installing Door Weatherstripping.....	107



Health + Safety Information Sheet

Health + Safety: Introduction

The introduction to this manual introduced EPA's Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades. The document is a useful tool for finding solutions for common issues that arise when completing home energy upgrades. This page will highlight some important details in the document in relation to safety when duct sealing.

Health + Safety: Worker Safety

As mentioned in the introduction, it is required for all contractors to follow OSHA regulations. By law, employers and supervisors are required to ensure that all workers have the correct personal protective equipment. These items include, but aren't limited to:

- Gloves
- Protective clothing
- Knee pads
- Eye protection
- Respirators: Different types of respirators are required for different jobs. Use the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades to verify that your current respirator is compliant with the job.
- Non-contact voltage detectors

Tip: It is important to keep your PPE in good condition. Having a bag that stores all of your PPE and supplies for cleaning the items will save you time and keep you safe.

Health + Safety: Health Hazards

It is important to look for hazards and create a mitigation plan before beginning work. The list below highlights the most important items to identify and mitigate for all duct repair jobs:

- Sewer gases, fuel oil, chemicals and other pollutants in crawl spaces or attics
- Mold-like growth in attics and crawl spaces
- Presence of pest/rodents in crawl spaces or attics
- Lack of CO alarm in all houses with combustion appliances and attached garages
- Unvented combustion appliances
- Combustion air intakes
- Knob and tube wiring
- Vermiculite insulation
- Pipe insulations that are likely to contain asbestos
- Deteriorated interior finishes that may contain asbestos in a friable condition

If any of these conditions exist, follow action items listed in the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades before beginning work.



CHECKLIST: AIR SEALING SURVEY

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

HOUSE FLOOR PLAN

Create a diagram of the house below:



CHECKLIST: AIR SEALING SURVEY

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

✓	N/A	ASSESSMENT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Complete combustion safety testing before starting work and inform occupant if problems are found.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Create a rough sketch of the house floor plan, including all interior walls.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Mark areas on the floor plan that may be chases, dropped ceilings and soffits that are adjacent to the attic.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Draw conditioned and unconditioned spaces on the floor plan .
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Mark location of fire hazards (combustion flues, can lights, etc.).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Mark remaining areas on the floor plan that need to be sealed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Create a Scope of Work based on the interior assessment

AIR SEALING LOCATIONS

Look for seams, cracks joints, holes in these locations:

ATTIC		
Top plates of all walls	Can Lights	Dropped Ceilings
Tongue + Groove Ceilings	Plumbing Vent Pipes	Stairwells
Chases	Exhaust Fans	Chimney/Flue
Soffits	Missing wall cavity top plates	Ductwork
Attic Hatches		
WALL		
Electrical Wire	Missing knee wall cavity bottom plates	Attic Doors
Bottom plates of knee walls	Missing wall cavity top plates	CMU Hollow Cores
FLOOR		
Chases	Electrical	
Plumbing	Blocking of all floor cavities	

JOB INFORMATION	
Assessor Name	Initials
Address	Date



CHECKLIST: AIR SEALING

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

✓	N/A	PREP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Verify that a ventilation plan is established.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Put on all personal protection equipment (PPE).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Identify all worker and occupant safety hazards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Identify all potential durability issues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Address all combustion safety, worker safety, occupant safety and durability issues prior to starting work and notify the occupant. Do not complete work if a life safety hazard is identified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Create a diagram of the attic, walls and/or floor, identifying area needing sealing.

✓	N/A	AIR SEALING
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Remove existing insulation at air sealing locations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. For homes with vented exterior soffits, install protective baffling.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Install insulation dams.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Verify that all wall cavities have six sides. Install additional blocking where necessary.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Install infill material in all extra large holes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Seal all small, medium and large holes between the unconditioned and conditioned space.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Reinstall removed insulation and install new insulation to align with the air barrier and according to the manufacturer's specifications. Verify that all insulation has no gaps, voids, compression or misalignment.

✓	N/A	CLOSE OUT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Clean the work area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17. Educate occupants on the work completed.

JOB INFORMATION

Installer Name	Initials
Address	Date




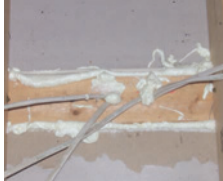




CHECKLIST: AIR SEALING

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

AIR SEALING GUIDELINES

For seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are:

1/4-inch or less (small)		1/4 inch to 2 inches (medium)		2 to 3 inches (large)		3 inches or more (extra large)
Seal with caulk.*		Seal with one component foam or mastic.*		Seal with two component foam.		Install an infill material that will not bend, sag or move. Follow guidelines for applicable hole size.
BEFORE	AFTER	BEFORE	AFTER	BEFORE	AFTER	
						

* Sealants used for larger holes may also be used in these conditions.

AIR SEALING LOCATIONS

Look for seams, cracks joints, holes in these locations:

ATTIC		
Top plates of all walls	Can Lights	Dropped Ceilings
Tongue + Groove Ceilings	Plumbing Vent Pipes	Stairwells
Chases	Exhaust Fans	Chimney/Flue
Soffits	Missing wall cavity top plates	Ductwork
Attic Hatches		
WALL		
Electrical Wire	Missing knee wall cavity bottom plates	Attic Doors
Bottom plates of knee walls	Missing wall cavity top plates	CMU Hollow Cores
FLOOR		
Chases	Electrical	
Plumbing	Blocking of all floor cavities	



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING PENETRATIONS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Penetrations sealed to prevent leakage and moisture movement between the attic and conditioned space.

MATERIALS

TOOLS

Leaking wiring penetration.

Penetration air sealed.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

Select a sealant that meets local code requirements regarding flammability.

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING PENETRATIONS

Leaking wiring penetration.

Seal penetration with caulk or foam.

Penetration air sealed.

1 FIND PENETRATION



2 SEAL PENETRATION



3 SEALED



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING KNEE WALLS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Attic knee walls framed to prevent thermal bypass and sealed to prevent air leakage between attic and conditioned space.

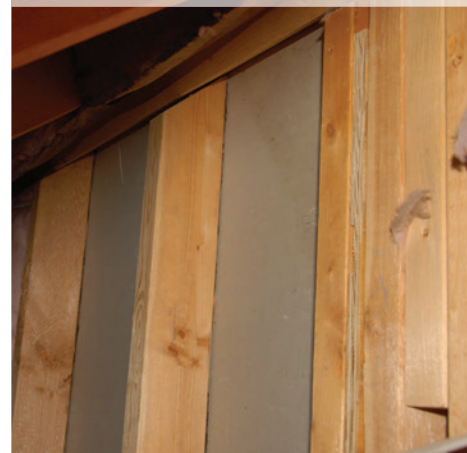
MATERIALS

TOOLS

Knee wall with incomplete or missing top and bottom plate and no air sealing.

Knee wall with both a top and bottom plate and air sealed.

✗ BEFORE



✓ AFTER



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING KNEE WALLS

Remove or adjust insulation to allow access to top and/or bottom of knee wall.

Install top plate or blocking.

Air seal joints, cracks and penetrations including connection between interior surface and framing.

1 REMOVE BATT



2 INSTALL TOP PLATE



3 SEAL



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING TONGUE + GROOVE CEILINGS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Tongue and groove ceilings sealed to prevent air leakage and moisture movement between the attic and conditioned space

MATERIALS

TOOLS

Unsealed tongue and groove ceiling.

Air sealed tongue and groove ceiling.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

NOTICE: No sealant should be visible in the living space.

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING TONGUE + GROOVE CEILINGS

Option A: Air seal tongue and groove ceiling.

NOTICE: If air sealant is a foam plastic, it must be covered with an approved thermal barrier (e.g. rockwool, slag wool).

Option B: Install air barrier that is approved for attic exposure.

Air seal backing using a sealant that meets fire barrier specifications.

1 SEAL



2 INSULATE



3 INSTALL BACKING



4 SEAL



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING BALLOON FRAMING

DESIRED OUTCOME: Open wall cavities sealed to prevent air leakage and moisture movement between the attic and conditioned space

MATERIALS

Cardboard baffles

TOOLS

Hammer stapler

Wall cavities open to attic.

Wall cavities blocked and sealed.

X BEFORE



✓ AFTER



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING BALLOON FRAMING

Prepare work area.

Cover or fill cavity at ceiling height with rigid material. Fasten as needed.

Seal all seams, gaps, and holes in blocking.

Seal all gaps, holes and seams in adjacent framing.

1 PREPARE



2 INSTALL BLOCKING



3 SEAL BLOCKING



4 SEAL FRAMING



Notes:



CAPPING CHASES

Chase completely capped and air sealed.

TOOLS

[illegible]

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

Any evidence of roof leak must be fixed prior to air sealing.

If interior surface covering in chase is not appropriately fire rated, the material used to cap the chase must be appropriately fire rated.

95



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

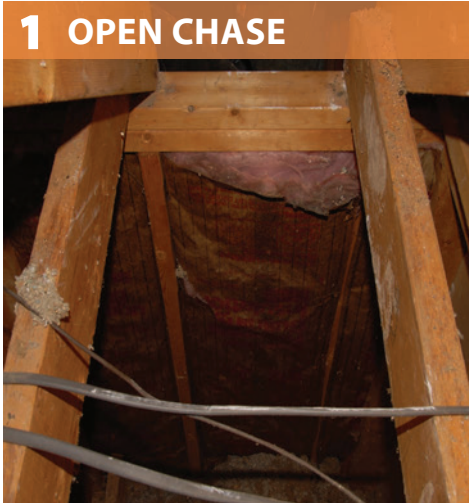
CAPPING CHASES

Chase open to the attic.

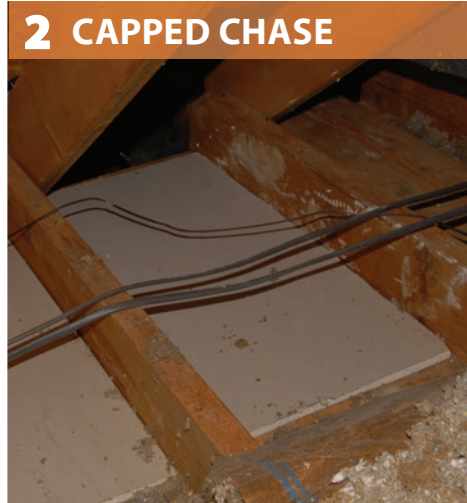
Install cap to cover entire chase.
Install support material as needed.
Fasten in place.

Seal all cracks, seams, and holes at
chase and adjacent framing.

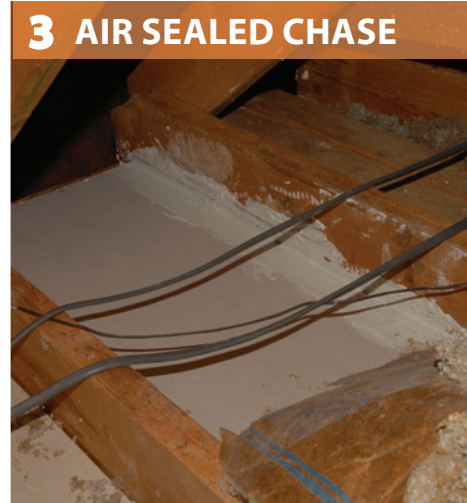
1 OPEN CHASE



2 CAPPED CHASE



3 AIR SEALED CHASE



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL: CAPPING SOFFITS

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

DESIRED OUTCOME: Soffit is capped to prevent air leakage or moisture movement between the attic and conditioned space

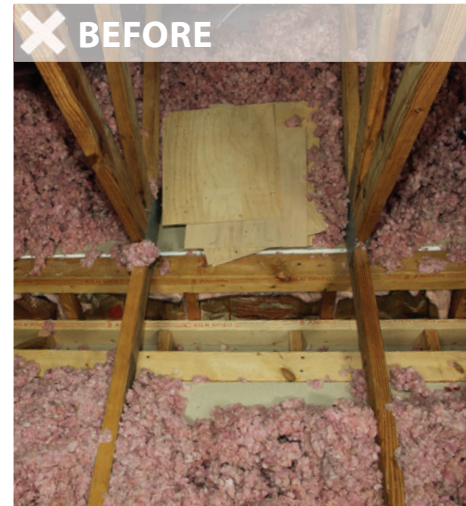
MATERIALS

Interior cladding: see notes

TOOLS

Wall cavities within the SOFFIT/
DROPPED CEILING are open to the
attic.

Wall cavities capped and air-sealed.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

*If interior surface covering in soffit is not appropriately
fire rated, the material used to cap the soffit must be
appropriately fire rated.*

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL: CAPPING SOFFITS

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Prepare work area.



Install support material (e.g., 2X) for spans wider than 24 inches.



NOTICE: If air sealant is a foam plastic, it must be covered with an approved thermal barrier (e.g. rockwool, slag wool).

Install and fasten rigid sheathing over soffit/dropped ceiling.



Air-seal all gaps, holes and seams of rigid sheathing.



Seal all gaps, holes and seams in adjacent framing.



Notes: Be cautious when installing support material since excessive hammering may crack interior surfaces (e.g. drywall)



CRITICAL DETAIL:

CAPPING STAIRWELLS

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

DESIRED OUTCOME: Stairwells sealed to prevent air leakage and moisture movement between the attic and conditioned space

Wall cavities within the stairwell open to the attic.

Whole stairwell capped and air sealed.

MATERIALS

Interior cladding: see notes

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

If interior surface covering in stairwell is not appropriately fire rated, the material used to cap the stairwell must be appropriately fire rated.

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

CAPPING STAIRWELLS

Install support material (e.g., 2X) for spans wider than 24 inches.

IMPORTANT: Rigid sheathing must have 15-minute fire rating if interior walls are not fire rated.

Install and fasten rigid sheathing over stairwell.

Air seal all gaps, holes and seams of rigid sheathing.

1 INSTALL SUPPORT



2 FIRE RATING



3 RIGID SHEATHING

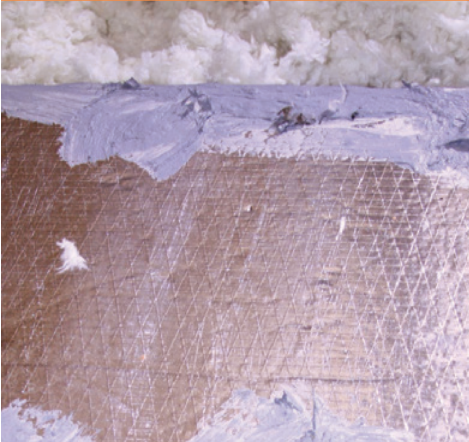


4 SEAL SHEATHING



Seal all gaps, holes and seams in adjacent framing at top of stairwell.

5 SEAL FRAMING



Notes: Be cautious when installing support material since

excessive hammering may crack interior surfaces

(e.g. drywall)



CRITICAL DETAIL: SEALING WALL PENETRATIONS

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

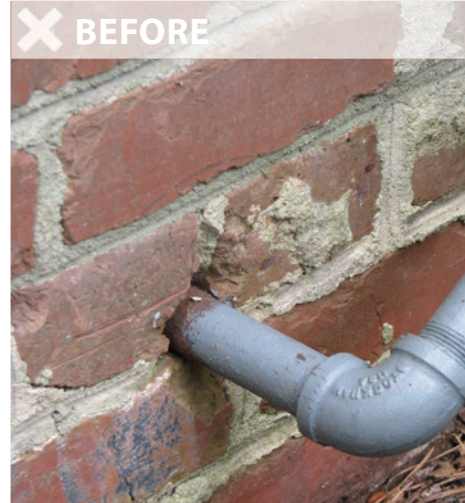
DESIRED OUTCOME: Penetrations sealed to prevent air leakage and moisture movement through the exterior wall

MATERIALS

TOOLS

Penetration is not sealed

Penetration is sealed



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, safety glasses

Do not seal weep holes.

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING WALL PENETRATIONS

Locate penetrations through foundation walls.

1 LOCATE HOLES



For holes 1/4 in. or less, seal with water-proof caulk.

2 SEAL WITH CAULK



For holes 1/4 in. to 3/4 in., install backer rod, copper mesh and seal with water-proof caulk.

3 INSTALL BACKER ROD



For holes greater than 3/4 in., use hydraulic cement to seal penetrations.

4 SEAL WITH CEMENT





CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SEALING CATHEDRAL CEILING SKYLIGHTS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Seams of skylight sealed to prevent movement of air leakage or moisture movement between the attic and conditioned space.

MATERIALS

TOOLS

Skylight not air sealed.

Skylight fully air sealed.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

Any evidence of roof leak must be investigated prior to air sealing. (e.g. water staining, discoloration, peeling paint)

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

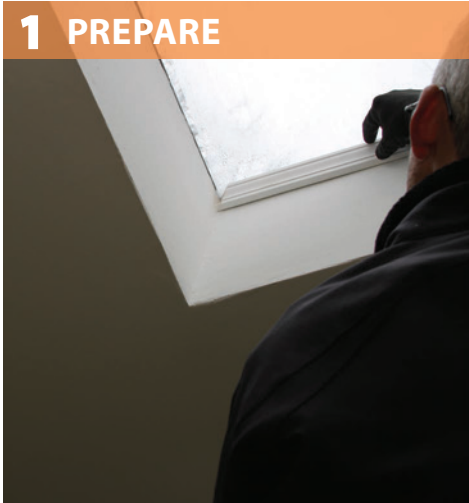
SEALING CATHEDRAL CEILING SKYLIGHTS

Prepare skylight shaft for air sealing. Remove trim as needed.

Install backer rod or infill, if needed.

Reinstall trim around perimeter of skylight.

1 PREPARE



2 SEAL SKYLIGHT



3 TRIM



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING WINDOW WEATHERSTRIPPING

DESIRED OUTCOME: Windows are sealed to prevent leakage from the conditioned to unconditioned space

Windows allow leakage to the outside

Windows are weatherstripped to prevent leakage

MATERIALS

TOOLS

✗ BEFORE



✓ AFTER



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING WINDOW WEATHERSTRIPPING

Clean the bottom of the sash, the sides of the window jamb and the back side of the sash at the top.

1 CLEAN WINDOW



Cut weatherstripping to be slightly longer than the height of the bottom sash.

2 MEASURE + CUT



Raise the sash and stick the weatherstripping to side jambs. Tack in place at top and bottom.

3 ATTACH SEAL



Cut the v-seal to fit on the back side of the top of the sash.

4 MEASURE + CUT



Stick the weatherstripping to the back side of the top of the sash with the open side facing up.

5 ATTACH SEAL



Attach a foam strip to the bottom of the sash.

6 ATTACH FOAM



Temporarily seal the top sash using a removable sealant.

7 SEAL TOP SASH





CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING DOOR WEATHERSTRIPPING

DESIRED OUTCOME: Doors are sealed to prevent leakage from the conditioned to unconditioned space

Doors allow leakage to the outside

Doors are weatherstripped to prevent leakage

MATERIALS

TOOLS

✗ BEFORE



✓ AFTER



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING DOOR WEATHERSTRIPPING

Verify the door is tight in the frame and clearances are even on all sides.

Verify the door opens, closes and latches easily.

Verify the hinges are securely screwed into the door frame and the door unit.

If necessary, replace the threshold and seal strip at the bottom of the door.

1 CHECK DOOR FRAME

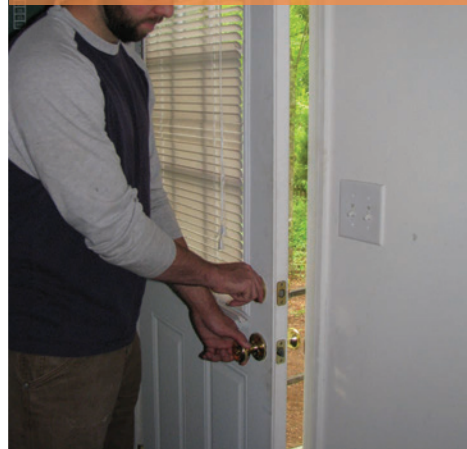


Measure and cut the gasket to head jamb length. Starting with the center, press gasket in place.

5 CHECK TOP JAMB



2 CHECK DOOR SWING

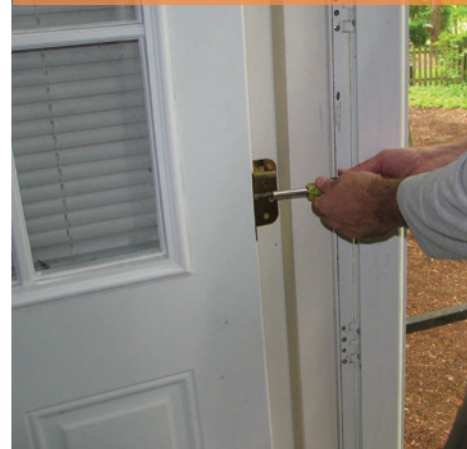


Repeat the previous step for both side jambs.

6 CHECK SIDE JAMBS



3 CHECK HINGES



Verify door operates properly and no light is visible around the door.

7 CHECK OPERATION



4 CHECK DOOR BOTTOM





HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

PREP + INSULATION

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

What every contractor needs to know.



Air sealing is a challenging and important job. Done right it can bring increased comfort, safety and health to the home's occupant while saving them money on their heating and cooling bills. The purpose of this guide is to assist you, the air sealing professional, with getting the job done right the first time – every time. Below is a list of provided materials in this section:

Health + Safety	115
Roof Deck Insulation Checklist	117
Attic Insulation Checklist	118
Crawlspace and/or Basement Insulation Checklist	119
Open Wall Cavity Insulation Checklist	120
Closed Wall Cavity Insulation (Dense Pack) Checklist	121
Information Sheet: 2009 IECC Insulation Levels	123
Information Sheet: Installing Insulation	125
Tech Tips: Installing Insulation	127
Additional Job Aids	
Critical Detail: Replacing Knob + Tube Wiring	129
Critical Detail: Enclosing Uninsulated (Non-IC Rated) Recessed Lights	131
Critical Detail: Installing Dams Around Chimneys + Flues	133



Prep + Insulation Contents

Critical Detail: Installing Ventilation Baffles.....	135
Critical Detail: Installing Radiant Barriers.....	137
Critical Detail: Insulating Attic Access Hatches.....	141
Critical Detail: Insulating Attic Pull-Down Stairs	143
Critical Detail: Insulating Access Doors.....	145
Critical Detail: Treating Soffit Perimeters	147
Critical Detail: Treating Stairwell Perimeters.....	149
Critical Detail: Enclosing Knee Walls with Rigid Backing	151
Critical Detail: Enclosing Knee Walls with Flexible Backing	153
Critical Detail: Enclosing Knee Walls with Strapping	155
Critical Detail: Insulating Manufactured Knee Walls	157
Critical Detail: Enclosing Knee Walls with Rigid Backing and Blowing Insulation.....	159
Critical Detail: Enclosing Knee Walls with Flexible Backing and Blowing Insulation	161
Critical Detail: Enclosing Skylight Shafts	163
Critical Detail: Insulating Attic Platforms	165
Critical Detail: Insulating Floor Cavities above Garages with Dense Pack Insulation.....	167



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Prep + Insulation Contents

Critical Detail: Insulating Attics with Blow-In Insulation	169
Critical Detail: Insulating Attics with Blow-In Insulation over Existing Batts	171



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

OSHA REGULATIONS

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Health + Safety Information Sheet

Health + Safety: Introduction

The introduction to this manual introduced EPA's Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades. The document is a useful tool for finding solutions for common issues that arise when completing home energy upgrades. This page will highlight some important details in the document in relation to safety when duct sealing.

Health + Safety: Worker Safety

As mentioned in the introduction, it is required for all contractors to follow OSHA regulations. By law, employers and supervisors are required to ensure that all workers have the correct personal protective equipment. These items include, but aren't limited to:

- Gloves
- Protective clothing
- Knee pads
- Eye protection
- Respirators: Different types of respirators are required for different jobs. Use the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades to verify that your current respirator is compliant with the job.
- Non-contact voltage detectors

Tip: It is important to keep your PPE in good condition. Having a bag that stores all of your PPE and supplies for cleaning the items will save you time and keep you safe.

Health + Safety: Health Hazards

It is important to look for hazards and create a mitigation plan before beginning work. The list below highlights the most important items to identify and mitigate for all duct repair jobs:

- Sewer gases, fuel oil, chemicals and other pollutants in crawl spaces or attics
- Mold-like growth in attics and crawl spaces
- Presence of pest/rodents in crawl spaces or attics
- Lack of CO alarm in all houses with combustion appliances and attached garages
- Unvented combustion appliances
- Combustion air intakes
- Knob and tube wiring
- Vermiculite insulation
- Pipe insulations that are likely to contain asbestos
- Deteriorated interior finishes that may contain asbestos in a friable condition

If any of these conditions exist, follow action items listed in the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades before beginning work.



CHECKLIST:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ROOF DECK INSULATION

✓	N/A	PREP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Verify that a ventilation plan is established.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Put on all personal protection equipment (PPE).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Identify all worker and occupant safety hazards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Identify all potential durability issues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Address all combustion safety, worker safety, occupant safety and durability issues prior to starting work and notify the occupant. Do not complete work if a life safety hazard is identified.

✓	N/A	WORK
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Identify how vapor will flow through the roof. Do not install an insulation material that will create a moisture issue.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Remove all existing insulation that touches the interior ceiling from the attic.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Address all combustion safety, worker safety, occupant safety and durability issues uncovered by insulation removal prior to starting work and notify the occupant. Do not complete work if a life safety hazard is identified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Identify roof deck areas where insulation must not be installed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Ensure all ventilation fans are ducted to the outside and seal all holes between the attic and the outside.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Install insulation according to the manufacturer's specifications. Verify that all insulation has no gaps, voids, compression or misalignment.

✓	N/A	CLOSE OUT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Clean the work area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Educate occupants on the work completed.

JOB INFORMATION

Name	Initials
Address	Date



CHECKLIST: ATTIC INSULATION

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

✓	N/A	PREP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Verify that a ventilation plan is established.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Put on all personal protection equipment (PPE).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Identify all worker and occupant safety hazards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Identify all potential durability issues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Address all combustion safety, worker safety, occupant safety and durability issues prior to starting work and notify the occupant. Do not complete work if a life safety hazard is identified.
✓	N/A	WORK
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Identify areas where insulation will not be installed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Seal all holes between the interior of the house and the attic.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. For homes with vented exterior soffits, install protective baffling.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Install insulation dams.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Install insulation according to the manufacturer's specifications. Verify that all insulation has no gaps, voids, compression or misalignment.
✓	N/A	CLOSE OUT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Clean the work area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Educate occupants on the work completed.

JOB INFORMATION

Name	Initials
Address	Date



CHECKLIST:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

CRAWLSPACE AND/OR BASEMENT INSULATION

✓	N/A	PREP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Verify that a ventilation plan is established.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Put on all personal protection equipment (PPE)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Identify all worker and occupant safety hazards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Identify all potential durability issues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Address all combustion safety, worker safety, occupant safety and durability issues prior to starting work and notify the occupant. Do not complete work if a life safety hazard is identified.
✓	N/A	WORK
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Remove existing damaged insulation from the crawlspace and/or basement.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Address all combustion safety, worker safety, occupant safety and durability issues uncovered by insulation removal prior to starting work and notify the occupant. Do not complete work if a life safety hazard is identified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Identify areas where insulation must not be installed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Seal all holes between the crawlspace and/or basement and the interior and exterior of the house.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Install insulation according to the manufacturer's specifications. Verify that all insulation has no gaps, voids, compression or misalignment.
✓	N/A	CLOSE OUT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Clean the work area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Educate occupants on the work completed.

JOB INFORMATION

Name	Initials
Address	Date



CHECKLIST:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

OPEN WALL CAVITY INSULATION

✓	N/A	PREP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Verify that a ventilation plan is established.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Put on all personal protection equipment (PPE)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Identify all worker and occupant safety hazards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Identify all potential durability issues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Address all combustion safety, worker safety, occupant safety and durability issues prior to starting work and notify the occupant. Do not complete work if a life safety hazard is identified.
✓	N/A	WORK
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Remove existing damaged insulation. Address all combustion safety, worker safety, occupant safety and durability issues uncovered by insulation removal prior to starting work and notify the occupant. Do not complete work if a life safety hazard is identified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Identify wall cavities without top and bottom plates and install blocking.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Seal all holes in the wall.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Install insulation according to the manufacturer's specifications. Verify that all insulation has no gaps, voids, compression or misalignment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Install a backing material to enclose insulation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Seal all holes in the backing material.
✓	N/A	CLOSE OUT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Clean the work area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Educate occupants on the work completed.

JOB INFORMATION

Name	Initials
Address	Date



CHECKLIST:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSED WALL CAVITY INSULATION (DENSE PACK)

✓	N/A	PREP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Verify that a ventilation plan is established.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Put on all personal protection equipment (PPE)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Identify all worker and occupant safety hazards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Identify all potential durability issues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Address all combustion safety, worker safety, occupant safety and durability issues prior to starting work and notify the occupant. Do not complete work if a life safety hazard is identified.

✓	N/A	WORK
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Gain access to all wall cavities and probe for obstructions and/or hazards.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Install insulation according to the manufacturer's specifications.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. View completed sections using an IR camera with a blower door operating. Drill and repack any voids or low density areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Seal access points of all wall cavities. Patch exterior holes with a weather barrier. Patch and coat holes to match original interior surface.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Repair the visible surface of access locations.

✓	N/A	CLOSE OUT
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Clean the work area.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Educate occupants on the work completed.

JOB INFORMATION

Name	Initials
Address	Date

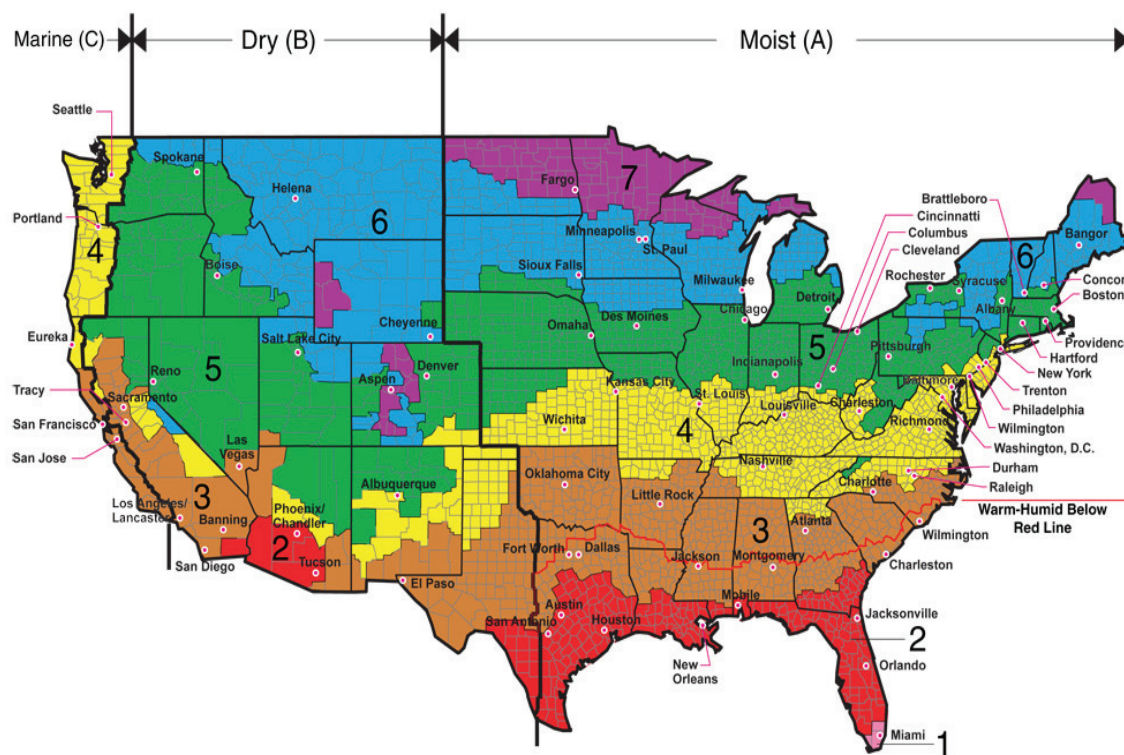


INFORMATION SHEET:

2009 IECC INSULATION LEVELS

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

CLIMATE ZONE	CEILING	FRAME WALL	MASS WALL ^c	FLOOR	BASEMENT WALL ^e	CRAWL SPACE WALL ^e	SLAB ^{g,h}
Zone 1	R-30	R-13	R-3	R-13	R-0	R-0	0
Zone 2	R-30	R-13	R-4	R-13	R-0	R-0	0
Zone 3	R-30	R-13	R-5	R-19	R-5/13 ^f	R-5/13	0
Zone 4	R-38	R-13	R-5	R-19	R-10/13	R-10/13	10, 2 ft.
Zone 5	R-38	R-20 or R-13+R-5 ^b	R-13	R-30 ^d	R-10/13	R-10/13	10, 2 ft.
Zone 6	R-49	R-20 or R-13+R-5 ^b	R-15	R-30 ^d	R-15/19	R-10/13	10, 4 ft.
Zone 7	R-49	R-21	R-19	R-38 ^d	R-15/19	R-10/13	10, 4 ft.



- R-Values are minimums.
- "R-13+R-5" means R-13 cavity insulation plus R-5 insulated sheathing. If structural sheathing covers 25 percent or less of the exterior, insulated sheathing is not required where structural sheathing is used. If structural sheathing covers more than 25 percent of the exterior, structural sheathing shall be supplemented with insulation sheathing of at least R-2.
- The second R-value applies when more than half of the insulation is on the interior of the mass wall.
- Sufficient insulation to fill the cavity, R-19 minimum.
- "R-15/19" means R-15 continuous insulation sheathing on the interior or exterior of the home or R-19 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall. "R-10/13" means R-10 continuous insulated sheathing or R-10 cavity insulation on the interior or exterior of the home or R-13 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall.
- Basement wall insulation is not required in warm-humid locations defined by Figure 301.1 and Table 301.1 of the IECC.
- R-values are minimums.
- R-5 shall be added to the required slab edge R-values for heated slabs. Insulation depth shall be the depth of the footing or two feet, whichever is less in Climate Zones 1-3 for heated slabs.

Interactive Map:

<http://energycode.pnl.gov/EnergyCodeReqs/>

All of Alaska in Zone 7 except for the following Boroughs in Zone 8: Bethel, Dillingham, Fairbanks, N. Star, Nome North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Southeast Fairbanks, Wade Hampton, and Yukon-Koyukuk

Zone 1 includes: Hawaii, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

WHAT TYPE OF INSULATION?

It is more important that the insulation is properly installed rather than the specific type being used. Avoid these five flaws when installing insulation to achieve a Grade I installation:

- Gaps
- Voids
- Misalignment
- Compression
- Wind Intrusion

Grade I Insulation Installation

It is important to install all ceiling, wall, floor and slab insulation to achieve RESNET-defined Grade I installation or Grade II for surfaces with insulated sheathing. By installing the insulation to meet these standards, you can ensure that it will work properly. According to the RESNET Mortgage Industry National HERS Standards:

"Grade I" installation requires that the insulation material uniformly fills each cavity side-to-side and top-to-bottom, without substantial gaps or voids around obstructions (such as blocking or bridging), and is split, installed and/or fitted tightly around wiring and other services in the cavity.

To attain a rating of "Grade I", wall insulation shall be enclosed on all six sides, and shall be in substantial contact with the sheathing material on at least one side (interior or exterior) of the cavity.

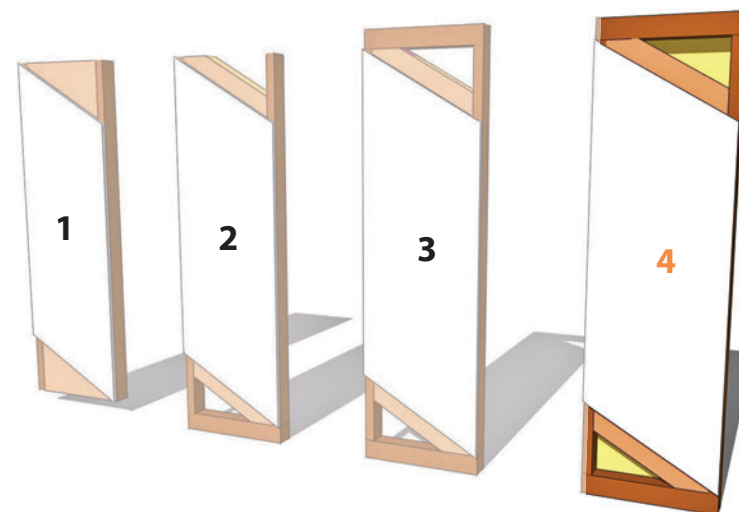
Exception: The interior sheathing/enclosure material is optional in climate zones 1-3, provided insulation is adequately supported and meets all other requirements.

Proper Installation: Framing

Properly installed insulation consists of insulation framed on all six sides, including top and bottom plates, rigid backing and sheathing. Ensure that framing is correctly installed prior to the start of insulation. By verifying that the framer has created six-sided wall cavities, insulators will save time and money through preventive measures. The images to the right illustrate how framing must be installed for insulation to meet the required Grade I installation.

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Insulation Information Sheet



Improper Framing - Insulation will not meet Grade I

1. No top or bottom plate and no backing
2. Bottom plate, but no top plate and no backing
3. Top and bottom plate, but no backing

Proper Framing - Insulation will meet Grade I

4. Top and bottom plate, includes backing (best design)

Proper Installation: Insulation

Once the framing has been verified as properly installed, it is more important that the insulation is properly installed. It is not important which type of insulation is used, but it is important to train installers. Training on how to properly install the type of insulation to avoid flaws will create a Grade I installation as well as a more comfortable and durable home.



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Insulation Information Sheet

Train installers on these five flaws and how to avoid them:

- **Gaps:** Ensure the insulation fills the entire exterior wall, ceiling or floor cavity
- **Voids:** Verify all exterior wall, ceiling and floor cavities have insulation
- **Misalignment:** Ensure all insulation is touching the air barrier
- **Compression:** Verify that insulation is installed without compression
- **Wind Intrusion:** Ensure there is a physical separation (such as wind baffles) between insulation in the attic and weather conditions

To better understand what improper and proper installation looks like for each of these five flaws, refer to the images and text on the Tech Tips in this section.

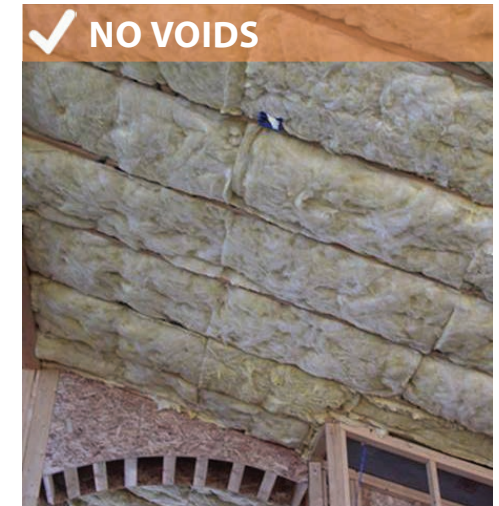
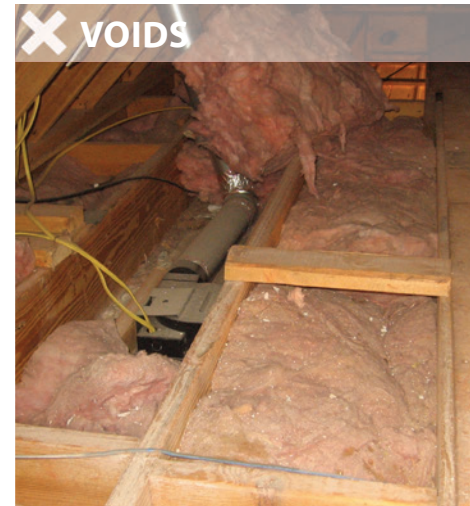


TECH TIPS: INSTALLING INSULATION

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Install insulation to fill the cavity between conditioned and unconditioned space without gaps, voids, misalignments or compression.

Install insulation to fill the cavity between conditioned and unconditioned space without gaps, voids, misalignments or compression.



Install insulation to fill the cavity between conditioned and unconditioned space without gaps, voids, misalignments or compression.

Install insulation to fill the cavity between conditioned and unconditioned space without gaps, voids, misalignments or compression.





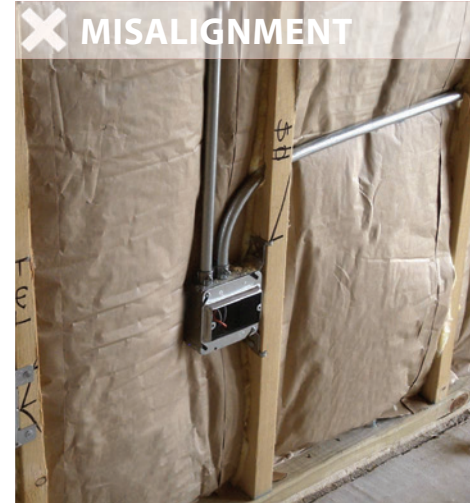
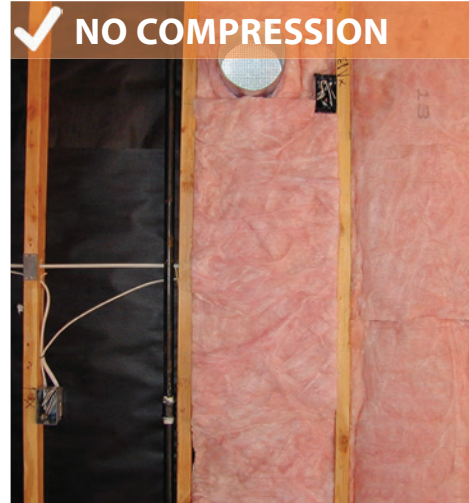
TECH TIPS:

INSTALLING INSULATION

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Cut and split insulation around blocking, plumbing, HVAC and electrical components.

Cut and split insulation around blocking, plumbing, HVAC and electrical components.



Install insulation to completely fill floor and/or cantilever framing or to maintain permanent contact with the subfloor.

Install insulation to completely fill floor and/or cantilever framing or to maintain permanent contact with the subfloor.





CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

REPLACING KNOB + TUBE WIRING

DESIRED OUTCOME: Insulation kept away from contact with live wiring

House visually inspected to identify knob and tube wiring.

Documented inspection.

MATERIALS

*Non-contact voltage tester
see note[†]*

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

[†]NOTICE: Use a non-contact voltage tester (clamp style or surface style).

Option: If wiring must remain, install insulation dams around the wiring to prevent contact.

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

REPLACING KNOB + TUBE WIRING

Visually inspect to identify knob and tube wiring.

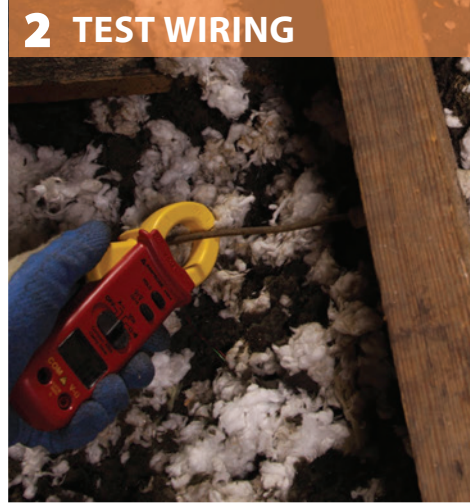
Use non-contact testing method to identify live wiring.

Replace knob and tube wiring with new appropriate wiring by a licensed electrician per local codes.

1 INSPECT WIRING



2 TEST WIRING



3 REPLACE WIRING



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING UNINSULATED (NON-IC RATED) RECESSED LIGHTS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Sealed light boxes safely prevent air leakage and moisture movement between the attic and conditioned space.

Dropped ceiling open to the attic having uninsulated recessed lights.

Air tight enclosure above finished insulation.

MATERIALS

Dam material needs to be a fire-rated air barrier system

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING UNINSULATED (NON-IC RATED) RECESSED LIGHTS

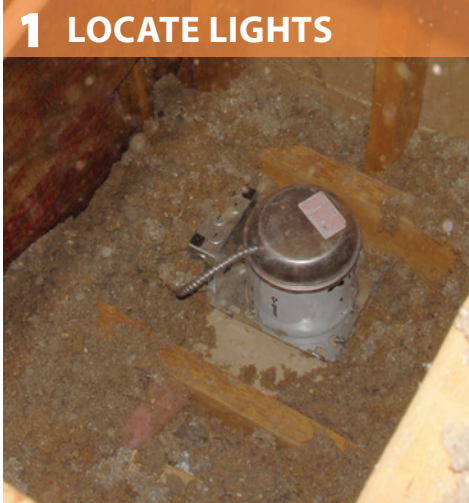
Dropped ceiling open to the attic having uninsulated non-IC rated light.

Clear area around fixture of insulation at a minimum of 3".

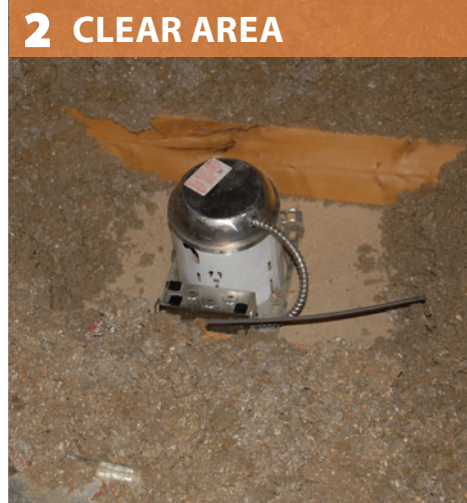
Construct enclosure with a height above insulation and with a R-value no greater than 0.5.

Air seal enclosure.

1 LOCATE LIGHTS



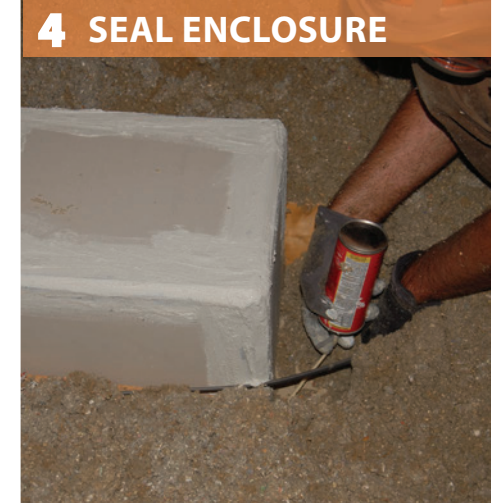
2 CLEAR AREA



3 BUILD ENCLOSURE

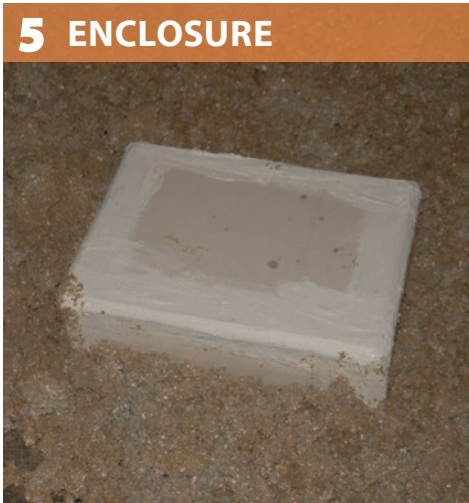


4 SEAL ENCLOSURE



Finished air tight enclosure. No insulation on top.

5 ENCLOSURE



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING DAMS AROUND CHIMNEYS + FLUES

DESIRED OUTCOME: Combustible materials kept away from combustion sources

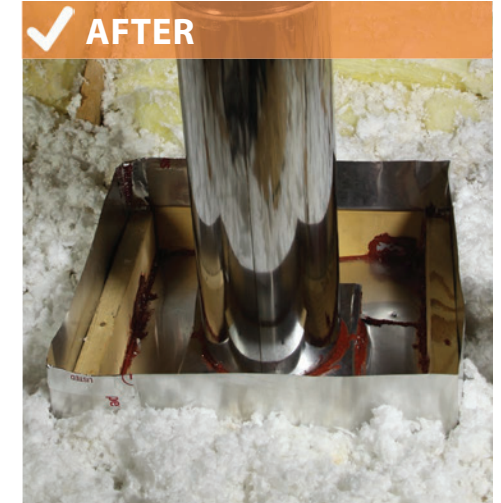
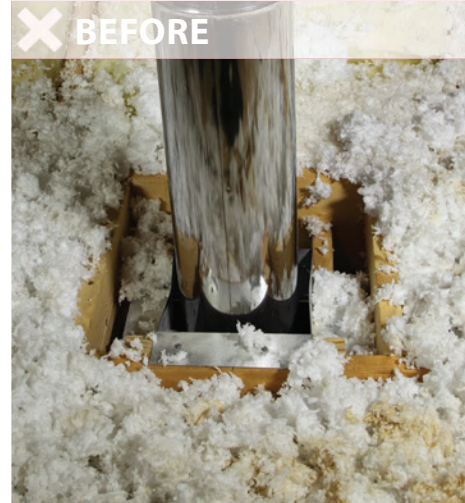
MATERIALS

Dam material needs to be a fire-rated air barrier system

TOOLS

Fireplace chimney without a dam.

Fireplace chimney with properly installed dams and insulation in place.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

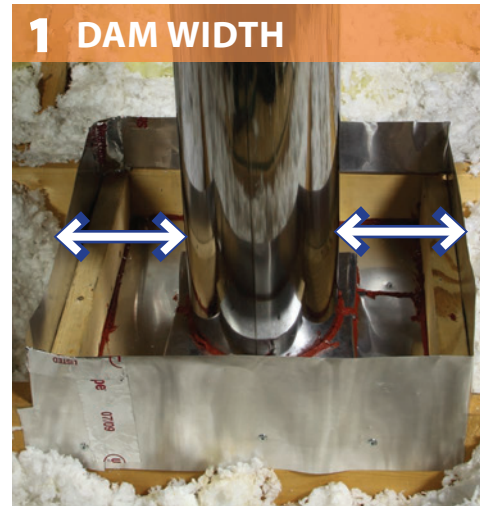
SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING DAMS AROUND CHIMNEYS + FLUES

Dam constructed to ensure a 3-inch clearance between chimney and dam.

Dams constructed to have a height greater than the insulation.

Do not allow insulation between chimney and dam.



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING VENTILATION BAFFLES

DESIRED OUTCOME: Attic ventilation meets code requirements and insulation protected from wind washing

MATERIALS

Cardboard baffles

TOOLS

Hammer stapler

Insulation at eave with no baffle installed.



Baffle installed properly.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING VENTILATION BAFFLES

Baffles will be installed to maintain a minimum 1-inch clearance between roof deck and baffle.

Baffles stapled in place to block wind entry into insulation and prevent insulation from blowing back into the attic.

Baffle installed to the exterior side of the top plate to allow for the highest possible R-value.

1 CLEARANCE



2 STAPLE



3 TOP PLATE



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING RADIANT BARRIERS

Install radiant barrier material per manufacturers' specifications.

Maintain air space no less than $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch between barrier and bottom of the roof deck.

Maintain minimum of 3-inch clearance from ridge vents.

Maintain minimum of 3-inch clearance from soffit vents.

1 INSTALL BARRIER



2 AIR SPACE



3 RIDGE VENTS



4 SOFFIT VENTS



Apply radiant barrier to gable walls while maintaining $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch air space. Radiant barrier should not block gable vents.

Install radiant barrier to separate attic above conditioned space from adjacent attics. Should be installed to withstand local wind loads.

NOTICE: Radiant barrier should not be installed until any issues with electrical system are resolved.

NOTICE: Radiant barrier should not cover any wiring.

5 GABLE VENTS



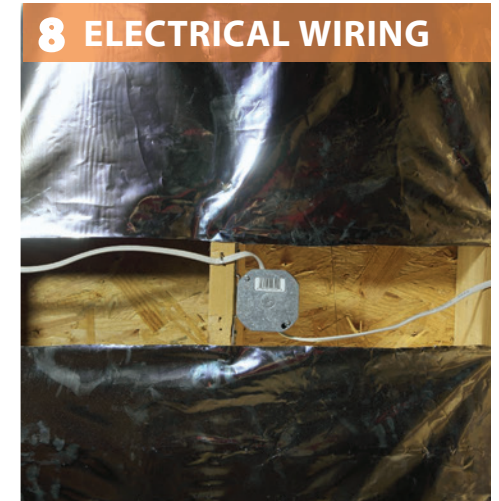
6 SEPARATE ATTICS



7 SAFETY HAZARDS



8 ELECTRICAL WIRING





CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSTALLING RADIANT BARRIERS

NOTICE: Radiant barrier should not be installed on the attic floor/insulation.

9 NOTICE: ATTIC FLOOR



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAILS:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ATTIC ACCESS HATCHES

DESIRED OUTCOME: Attic access door or hatches properly sealed and insulated to minimize heat loss or gain

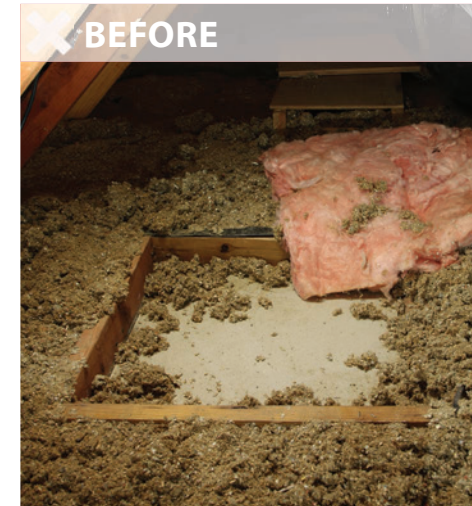
Attic hatches that are uninsulated and undammed.

Attic hatch insulated, dammed and weatherstripped.

MATERIALS

Dam materials see note[†]

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

[†] Dam materials must be constructed to allow repeated access without compromising the dam durability (e.g., 2X, OSB, plywood)

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ATTIC ACCESS HATCHES

Insulate attic hatch with rigid insulation to same R-value as adjoining insulated assembly.

Install dams to prevent insulation from falling out of attic.

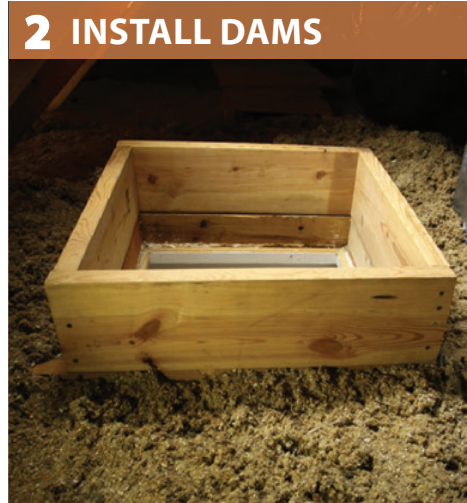
Install and weatherstrip access hatch or trim. Verify seal.

Air seal trim in place.

1 INSULATE HATCH



2 INSTALL DAMS



3 WEATHERSTRIP



4 SEAL TRIM



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ATTIC PULL-DOWN STAIRS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Attic access door or hatches properly sealed and insulated to minimize heat loss or gain

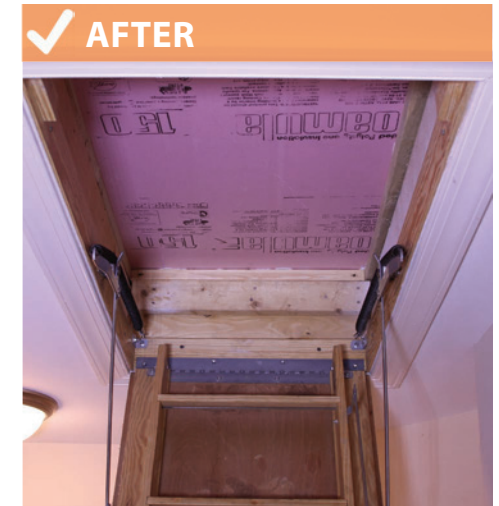
MATERIALS

Dam materials see note[†]

TOOLS

Attic pull-down stairs that are improperly insulated and undammed.

Attic pull-down stair insulated, dammed and weatherstripped.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

[†] Dam materials must be constructed to allow repeated access without compromising the dam durability (e.g., 2X, OSB, plywood)

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ATTIC PULL-DOWN STAIRS

Insulate attic pull-down stairs with rigid insulation to specified R-value.

Install dams to prevent insulation from falling out of attic.

Air seal between attic pull-down stairs framing and drywall.

Install and weatherstrip stair or trim. Verify seal.

1 INSULATE STAIRS



2 INSTALL DAMS



3 SEAL FRAMING



4 WEATHERSTRIP



Air seal trim in place.

5 SEAL TRIM



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ACCESS DOORS

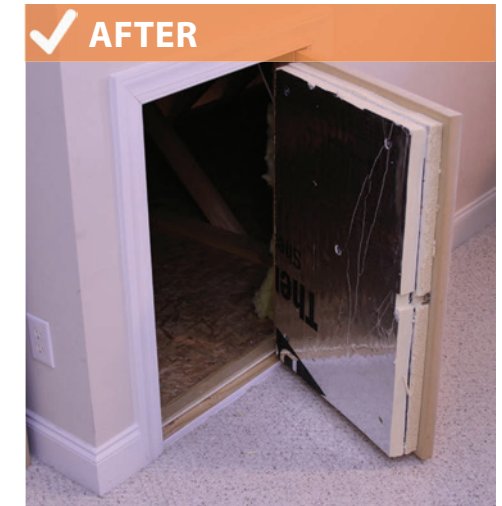
DESIRED OUTCOME: Attic access door or hatches properly sealed and insulated to minimize heat loss or gain

MATERIALS

TOOLS

Attic doors that are uninsulated.

Attic doors that are insulated and weatherstripped.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ACCESS DOORS

Insulate attic door stairs with rigid insulation to specified R-value.

Air seal between attic door stairs framing and drywall.

Install and weatherstrip stair or trim. Verify seal.

Air seal trim in place.

1 PREPARE



2 SEAL FRAMING



3 WEATHERSTRIP



4 RIGID SHEATHING



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

TREATING SOFFIT PERIMETERS

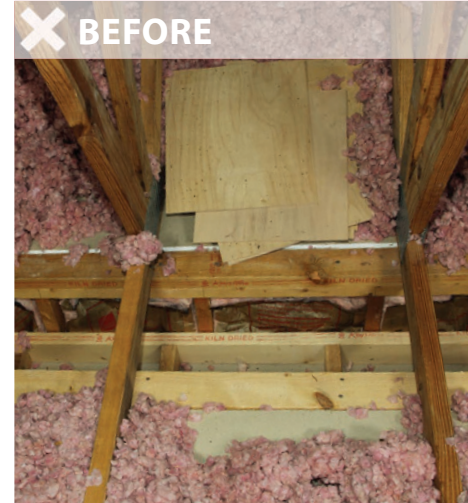
DESIRED OUTCOME: Chase capped to prevent air leakage and moisture movement between the attic and conditioned space.

MATERIALS

TOOLS

Wall cavities within the SOFFIT/
DROPPED CEILING are open to the
attic.

Wall cavities capped and air-sealed.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

Any evidence of roof leak must be fixed prior to air sealing.

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

TREATING SOFFIT PERIMETERS

Prepare work area and remove debris.

If insulation is on exterior wall, cut at ceiling level.

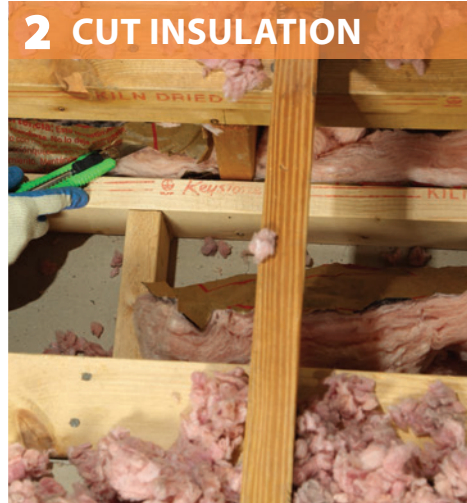
Install blocking in each wall cavity.

Air seal all gaps, holes and seams.

1 PREPARE



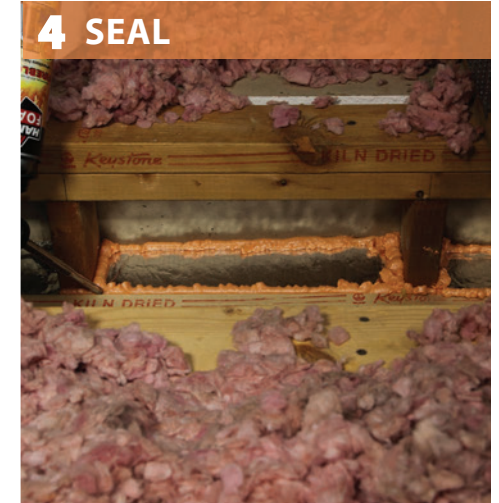
2 CUT INSULATION



3 INSTALL BLOCKING



4 SEAL



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

TREATING STAIRWELL PERIMETERS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Stairwells sealed to prevent air leakage and moisture movement between the attic and conditioned space

Wall cavities within the stairwell open to the attic.

Wall cavities insulated and air sealed.

MATERIALS

Blocking

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

If interior surface covering in stairwell is not appropriately fire rated, the rigid material used must be appropriately fire rated.

** Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.*



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

TREATING STAIRWELL PERIMETERS

Prepare work area.

Install blocking in each wall cavity.

Air seal all gaps, holes and seams.

Reinstall batt insulation in full contact with all sides of cavities without gaps, voids, compressions, misalignments or wind intrusions.

1 INSULATE STAIRS



2 INSTALL DAMS



3 SEAL FRAMING



4 INSULATE



Fasten rigid material to ensure batt insulation stays in place and seal all seams.

Seal all gaps, holes and seams in adjacent framing at top of stairwell.

Notes:

5 INSTALL MATERIAL



6 SEAL





CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING KNEE WALLS WITH RIGID BACKING

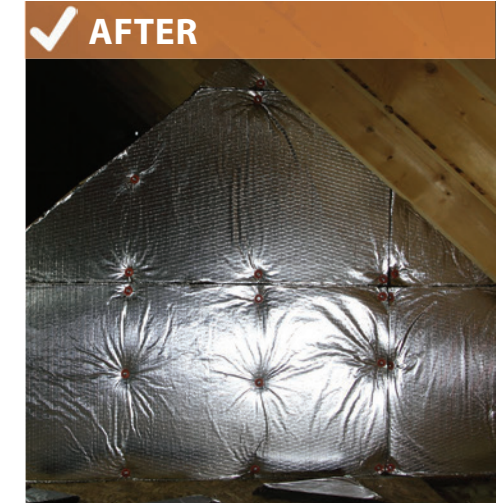
DESIRED OUTCOME: Consistent, uniform thermal boundary between the conditioned space and unconditioned space to prescribed R-value

Prepped wall.

Insulation backed with rigid material.

MATERIALS

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

If interior surface covering of knee wall is not appropriately fire rated, the rigid material used must be appropriately fire rated.

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING KNEE WALLS WITH RIGID BACKING

Install batt insulation in full contact with all sides of existing cavities without gaps, voids, compressions, misalignments or wind intrusions.

Fasten rigid material to ensure batt insulation stays in place.

1 INSULATE



2 FASTEN BACKING



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING KNEE WALLS WITH FLEXIBLE BACKING

DESIRED OUTCOME: Consistent, uniform thermal boundary between the conditioned space and unconditioned space to prescribed R-value

MATERIALS

Non-rigid material see
note[†]

TOOLS

Electric Stapler

Prepped wall.

Insulation backed with non-rigid
material.

✗ BEFORE



✓ AFTER



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

[†] Non-rigid material should have a perm rating of no less than 40 (CLASS III vapor retarder).

If interior surface covering in stairwell is not appropriately fire rated, the rigid material used must be appropriately fire rated.

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING KNEE WALLS WITH FLEXIBLE BACKING

Install batt insulation in full contact with all sides of existing cavities without gaps, voids, compressions, misalignments or wind intrusions.

Fasten non-rigid material to ensure batt insulation stays in place.

1 INSULATE



2 FASTEN BACKING



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING KNEE WALLS WITH STRAPPING

DESIRED OUTCOME: Consistent, uniform thermal boundary between the conditioned space and unconditioned space to prescribed R-value

Prepped wall.

Insulation strapped in place.

MATERIALS

TOOLS

✗ BEFORE



✓ AFTER



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING KNEE WALLS WITH STRAPPING

Install batt insulation in full contact with all sides of existing cavities without gaps, voids, compressions, misalignments or wind intrusions.

Fasten strapping material to ensure batt insulation stays in place.

1 INSTALL INSULATION



2 FASTEN STRAPPING



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING MANUFACTURED KNEE WALLS

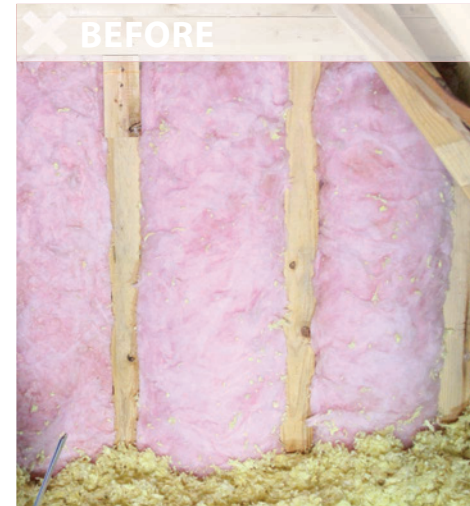
DESIRED OUTCOME: Consistent, uniform thermal boundary between the conditioned space and unconditioned space to prescribed R-value

Manufactured truss knee wall does not have cavities that can be air sealed or insulated.

Knee wall fully air sealed and insulated.

MATERIALS

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

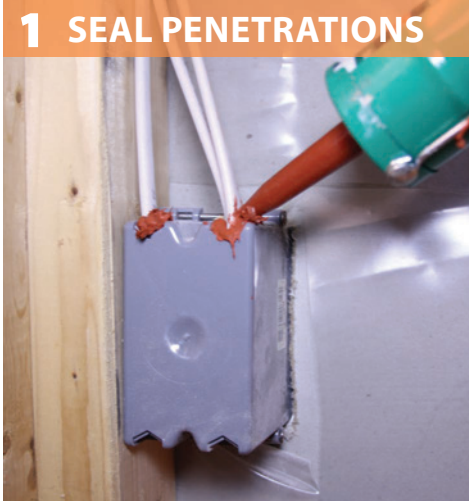
INSULATING MANUFACTURED KNEE WALLS

Air seal existing holes and penetrations.

Fasten fire-rated foam sheathing, covering 100% of the knee wall, to prescribed R-value.

Air seal all seams, gaps or holes in, or adjacent to, foam sheathing. Provide infill as needed.

1 SEAL PENETRATIONS



2 INSTALL INSULATION



3 SEAL



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING KNEE WALLS WITH RIGID BACKING AND BLOWING INSULATION

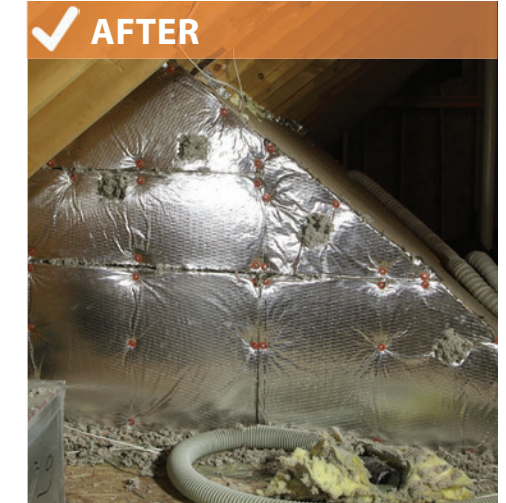
DESIRED OUTCOME: Consistent, uniform thermal boundary between the conditioned space and unconditioned space to prescribed R-value

Prepped wall.

Insulation backed with rigid backing.

MATERIALS

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING KNEE WALLS WITH RIGID BACKING AND BLOWING INSULATION

Fasten rigid material to ensure blown insulation stays in place.

Blown insulation installed to manufacturers' specified density.

1 FASTEN BACKING



2 BLOW INSULATION



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING KNEE WALLS WITH FLEXIBLE BACKING AND BLOWING INSULATION

DESIRED OUTCOME: Consistent, uniform thermal boundary between the conditioned space and unconditioned space to prescribed R-value

Prepped wall.

Insulation backed with non-rigid material.

MATERIALS

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING KNEE WALLS WITH FLEXIBLE BACKING AND BLOWING INSULATION

Fasten non-rigid material to ensure blown insulation stays in place.

Reinforce non-rigid backing at every stud with wood strips.

Blown insulation installed to manufacturers' specified density.

1 FASTEN BACKING



2 REINFORCE BACKING



3 BLOW INSULATION



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

ENCLOSING SKYLIGHT SHAFTS

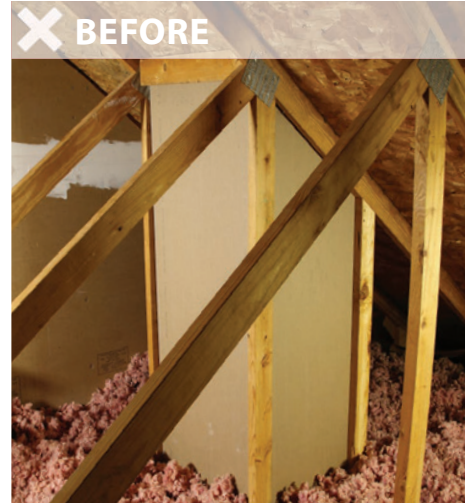
DESIRED OUTCOME: Consistent, uniform thermal boundary between the conditioned space and unconditioned space to prescribed R-value

Skylight shaft not air sealed or insulated.

Skylight fully air sealed and insulated.

MATERIALS

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

Any evidence of roof leak must be fixed prior to air sealing.

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

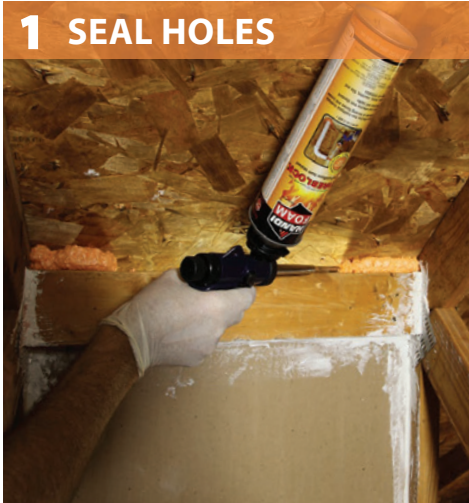
ENCLOSING SKYLIGHT SHAFTS

Air seal holes and penetrations.

Fasten insulation around entire skylight with fire rated foam sheathing covering 100% of the surface area to prescribed R-value.

Air seal all seams, gaps or holes as well as roof deck and ceiling connections.

1 SEAL HOLES



2 FASTEN INSULATION



3 SEAL



Notes:



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ATTIC PLATFORMS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Reduce heat flow beneath floored portions of attic

MATERIALS	TOOLS

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.

Attic platform with little to no insulation beneath it.



Attic platform cavity fully insulated.



SAFETY + NOTES
Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ATTIC PLATFORMS

Gain access to cavities beneath platform.

Inspect along and beneath platform for possible safety hazards (e.g., flue pipes, uncovered junction boxes, etc.).

NOTICE: Do not insulate cavity until safety hazards are corrected (e.g., flue pipes, uncovered junction boxes, etc.).

NOTICE: If attic has existing blow-in insulation, block ends of platform cavities before installing insulation.

1 GAIN ACCESS



2 INSPECT



3 SAFETY HAZARDS



4 BLOW-IN INSULATION



Insulate cavities.

Replace or restore insulation along sides of platform.

Notes:

5 INSULATE



6 RESTORE INSULATION





CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING FLOOR CAVITIES ABOVE GARAGES WITH DENSE PACK INSULATION

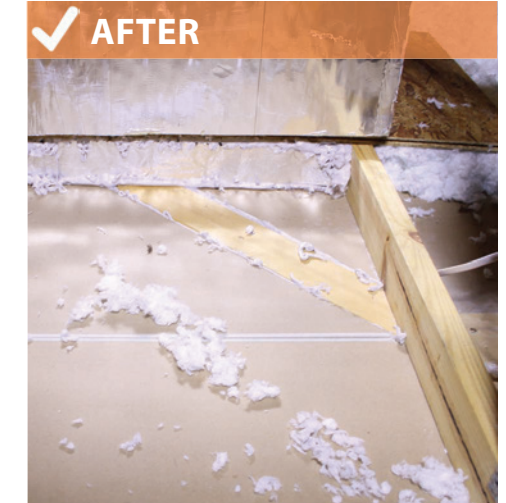
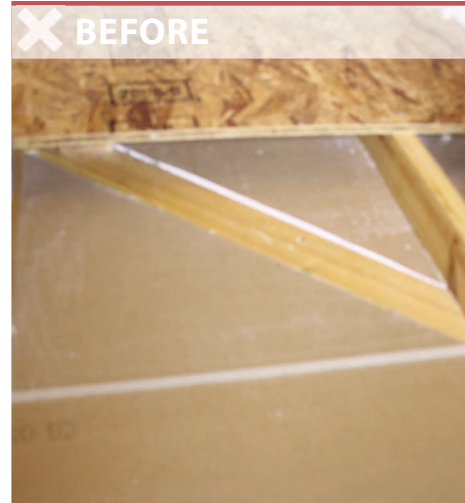
DESIRED OUTCOME: Consistent thermal and pressure boundary between conditioned and unconditioned space

Cavity between garage and bonus room floor is uninsulated.

Floor system densely packed to the extent that insulation and material is an air barrier that will not bend, sag or move after installation.

MATERIALS

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING FLOOR CAVITIES ABOVE GARAGES WITH DENSE PACK INSULATION

Inspect along and beneath floor for possible safety hazards (e.g., flue pipes, electrical issues, can lights, etc.).

Do not insulate cavity until safety hazards are corrected (e.g., flue pipes, electrical issues, can lights, etc.).

Install and seal blocking as needed to contain dense pack insulation.

Fill cavities to recommended density for material.

1 INSPECT



2 SAFETY HAZARDS



3 BLOCKING



4 DENSE PACK



Install and seal blocking as needed to maintain dense pack insulation.

Fill out attic insulation card and post in attic near access.

5 BLOCKING



6 INSULATION CARD



Notes:



INSULATING ATTICS WITH BLOW-IN INSULATION

Attic without insulation

A photograph showing the interior of a roof structure. A large, light-colored wooden beam is positioned diagonally across the frame, appearing loose or misaligned. Below it, several blue plastic shims are placed on the floor joists. The word "BEFORE" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters in the upper right corner, with a large white 'X' mark over the top left portion of the image.

SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

Do not use loose fill when pitch exceeds 3/12.

169



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ATTICS WITH BLOW-IN INSULATION

Open electrical junction boxes will have covers installed

All electrical junctions will be flagged to be seen above the level of the insulation

Insulation dams and enclosures will be installed as required

Install insulation depth markers beginning at the air barrier (1 every 300 square feet)

1 SAFETY HAZARDS



2 FLAG JUNCTIONS



3 INSTALL DAMS



4 INSTALL MARKERS



Blow insulation to the depth indicated on the manufacturer coverage chart for desired R-value

Fill out attic insulation card and post in attic near access

NOTICE: Do not use loose fill when pitch exceeds 3/12

Notes:

5 BLOW INSULATION



6 INSULATION CARD



7 NOTICE: CEILING PITCH





CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ATTICS WITH BLOW-IN INSULATION OVER EXISTING BATTS

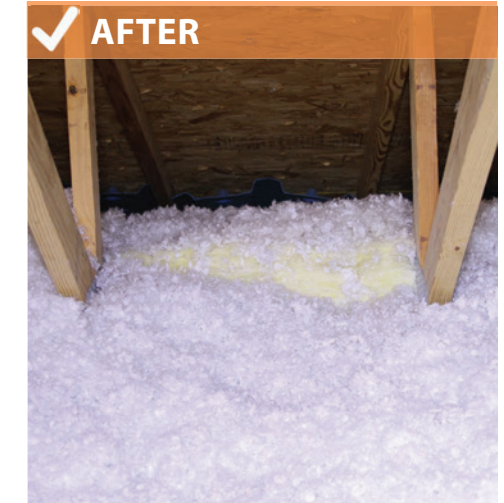
DESIRED OUTCOME: Insulation controls heat transfer through ceiling

Poorly installed batts.

Upgraded insulation.

MATERIALS

TOOLS



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

Do not use loose fill when pitch exceeds 3/12.

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.



CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ATTICS WITH BLOW-IN INSULATION OVER EXISTING BATTS

Option 1: Realign batts with air barrier.

1 OPTION 1: REALIGN



Option 2: Move batts to a homeowner-approved area (e.g., porch attic, garage attic, etc.).

2 OPTION 2: MOVE



Install covers on opened electrical junction boxes.

3 SAFETY HAZARDS



Flag all electrical junctions so they are seen above the level of the insulation.

4 FLAG JUNCTIONS



Install insulation dams and enclosures as required.

5 INSTALL DAMS



Install insulation depth markers beginning at the air barrier (1 every 300 square feet).

6 INSTALL MARKERS



Blow insulation to the depth indicated on the manufacturer coverage chart for desired R-value.

7 BLOW INSULATION



Fill out attic insulation card and post in attic near access.

8 INSULATION CARD





CRITICAL DETAIL:

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

INSULATING ATTICS WITH BLOW-IN INSULATION OVER EXISTING BATTS

NOTICE: Do not use loose fill when ceiling pitch exceeds 3/12.

9 NOTICE: CEILING PITCH



Notes:

APPENDIX



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

What every contractor needs to know.



HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

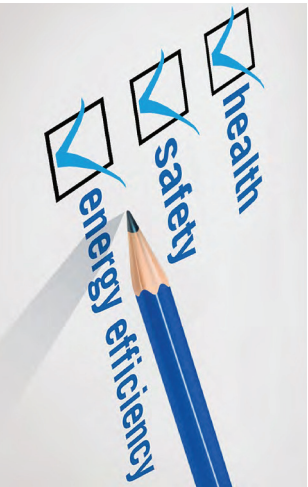
SUCCESS WITH HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Appendix

-
- EPA Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades



Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades



GUIDANCE FOR ACHIEVING SAFE AND HEALTHY
INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS DURING HOME ENERGY
RETROFITS

HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENT PROTOCOLS FOR HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

Purpose and Scope

Millions of American homes will be retrofitted in the coming years to improve their energy efficiency, make them more “green” or add features their owners want. Integrated healthy home and energy-efficiency retrofit activities can simultaneously lower utility costs and improve indoor air quality. Leading energy-efficiency retrofit programs have demonstrated the feasibility of integrating many indoor air quality and safety improvements. However, home energy retrofit activities might negatively affect indoor air quality if the appropriate home assessment is not made before work begins and issues that may affect indoor air quality are not identified and properly addressed. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed **Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades** to provide practical guidance on improving or maintaining indoor air quality and indoor environments during home energy upgrades, retrofits or remodeling.

The protocols apply to existing single-family and multi-family low-rise residential buildings. They provide guidance for conducting home assessments and undertaking the responses necessary to maintain or improve indoor air quality and safety. The protocols also can help improve the quality of home weatherization projects and other energy-efficiency retrofit or remodeling jobs, thus reducing failures and call-backs.

The protocols are intended for use by the home energy retrofit industry, including energy-efficiency retrofit and housing rehabilitation professionals and contractors, and others engaged in energy-focused residential retrofit, renovation or remodeling efforts. They are also intended for voluntary adoption by federal, state, tribal and local weatherization assistance programs, federally funded housing programs, industry standards organizations, private sector home performance contracting organizations and public and environmental health professionals.

EPA developed these voluntary protocols in coordination with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Workforce Guidelines for Home Energy Upgrades (http://www.weatherization.energy.gov/retrofit_guidelines) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Recovery Through Retrofit initiative (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/Recovery_Through_Retrofit_Final_Report.pdf).

Programs and contractors undertaking energy retrofits and renovations are encouraged to coordinate their services with local health and housing resources to provide families the support they may need.

This document is not intended to 1) set new EPA regulatory standards, 2) provide guidance on diagnosing occupant health problems or building-related illness, 3) address emerging issues that have not been linked to adverse health effects, 4) make training or training documents unnecessary, 5) provide detailed guidance on how to achieve the intent of each recommendation in all situations or 6) identify funding availability or which programmatic funding sources should be used.

How the Protocols Are Organized

This document is organized into four sections to highlight priority indoor environmental issues that may relate to home energy-efficiency retrofits.

1. **Priority Issues** are listed in Column 1.
2. The **Assessment Protocols** in Column 2 are EPA-recommended or EPA-required protocols for evaluating existing conditions of concern and the potential for additional concerns that may arise from retrofit activities.
3. The **Minimum Actions** in Column 3 include critical actions that home energy retrofit contractors should take to help ensure their work does not introduce new indoor air quality concerns or make existing conditions worse. These actions often refer to national standards and guidance; however, work should be conducted in compliance with state and local requirements as well. All equipment removals should include proper disposal so that hazardous units are not reinstalled or used elsewhere.
4. The **Expanded Actions** in Column 4 include additional actions to promote healthy indoor environments that can be taken during many home energy retrofit projects. They can be performed by properly trained home energy retrofit workers who have sufficient resources. National standards and guidance are also referenced; however, work should be conducted in compliance with state and local requirements as well. All equipment removals should include proper disposal so that hazardous units are not reinstalled or used elsewhere.

Relevant standards and guidance documents are listed in the Assessment Protocols, Minimum Actions and Expanded Actions columns for each priority issue in an abbreviated format that can be identified with more detailed information in the References section.

The icons used in these protocols are:



Indicates an issue where worker safety is a primary concern. See **Appendix A: Worker Protection** for information on assessing the risks to workers, recommended actions to minimize risks to workers' health and safety and additional resources.





Indicates an issue where occupant education is especially important. If the icon appears in a priority issue section, appropriate occupant education about health and safety is strongly recommended as part of the retrofit activities. See **Appendix B: Client Education** for recommended occupant health messages and additional resources.






Contents

PURPOSE AND SCOPE	i
HOW THE PROTOCOLS ARE ORGANIZED	ii
CONTAMINANTS	1
ASBESTOS	1
BELOWGROUND CONTAMINANTS (EXCEPT RADON)	3
BUILDING PRODUCTS/MATERIALS EMISSIONS	4
CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) AND OTHER COMBUSTION APPLIANCE EMISSIONS (NITROGEN OXIDES, VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS [VOCs] AND PARTICULATES)	6
ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE (ETS)	7
GARAGE AIR POLLUTANTS (CO, BENZENE AND OTHER VOCs)	8
LEAD	9
MOISTURE (MOLD AND OTHER BIOLOGICALS)	9
OZONE	11
PESTS	11
POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs)	12
RADON	12
WOOD SMOKE AND OTHER SOLID FUEL EMISSIONS	16
CRITICAL BUILDING SYSTEMS FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS	17
HEATING, VENTILATING AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) EQUIPMENT	17
COMBUSTION SAFETY	18
Vented Combustion Appliances	18
Unvented Combustion Appliances	20
SOURCE VENTILATION	21
WHOLE-HOUSE VENTILATION FOR DISTRIBUTED CONTAMINANT SOURCES	22
MULTI-FAMILY VENTILATION	22
SAFETY	23
HOME SAFETY	23
JBSITE SAFETY	24
REFERENCES	26
STANDARDS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS	26
GUIDANCE	27
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	31
APPENDICES	32
APPENDIX A: WORKER PROTECTION	32
APPENDIX B: CLIENT EDUCATION	38
APPENDIX C: ABBREVIATIONS	43





HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENT PROTOCOLS FOR HOME ENERGY UPGRADES

PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
	Measures to help home energy retrofit contractors identify common indoor air quality and safety concerns in homes. This document is not a guide to diagnosing occupant health problems or building-related illnesses.	Critical actions intended to ensure work does not potentially cause or worsen indoor air quality or safety problems for occupants or workers (i.e., “Do No Harm”). EPA recommends these protections for ALL retrofit projects.	Additional actions to promote healthy indoor environments that can be taken during energy-efficiency retrofit projects. EPA recommends considering these improvements when feasible.
CONTAMINANTS			
ASBESTOS			
	<p>Determine potential asbestos hazard. Consider the age of the structure; homes built after 1930 and before the 1970s especially may have asbestos insulation. Asbestos may also be present in other building materials in homes built or renovated prior to the 1990s.</p> <p>Note Possible sources of asbestos are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attic insulation (especially vermiculite). • Wall insulation (e.g., vermiculite, insulation blocks). • Insulation on steam pipes, boilers and furnace ducts. • Vinyl flooring (including 9-inch by 9-inch or 12-inch by 12-inch floor tiles, vinyl sheet flooring and the mastics and other adhesives used to secure the flooring). • Cement sheet, millboard and paper used as insulation around furnaces and wood- or coal-burning appliances. • Door gaskets in furnaces and wood- or coal-burning appliances (seals may contain asbestos). • Soundproofing or decorative surface materials sprayed on walls or ceilings, including popcorn ceilings. • Patching and joint compounds and textured paints on walls and ceilings. • Roofing, shingles and siding (including cement or adhesives). • Artificial ashes and embers (used in gas-fired fireplaces). • Transite (cement and asbestos) combustion vent or transite flue. • Original plaster or plaster that is old enough to potentially contain asbestos. 	<p>If suspected asbestos-containing material (ACM) is in good condition, do not disturb.</p> <p>If suspected ACM is damaged (e.g., unraveling, frayed, breaking apart), immediately isolate the area(s). For example, separate work area in question from occupied portions of the building using appropriate containment practices AND do not disturb. For suspected ACM that is damaged or that must be disturbed as part of the retrofit activity, contact an asbestos professional for abatement or repair, in accordance with federal, state and local requirements. Only a licensed or trained professional may abate, repair or remove ACM. </p> <p>Note Typically, trained professionals can repair asbestos by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sealing or Encapsulating:</i> Treating the material with a sealant that either binds the asbestos fibers together or coats the material so fibers are not released. Pipe, furnace and boiler insulation can often be repaired this way. • <i>Covering or Enclosing:</i> Placing a protective layer over OR around the ACM to prevent release of fibers. Exposed insulated piping may be covered with a protective wrap or jacket. • <i>Removing:</i> Removing ACM may be advantageous when remodeling OR making major changes to a home that will disturb ACM, or if ACM is damaged extensively and cannot be otherwise repaired (by covering, enclosing, sealing or encapsulating). 	This cell is intentionally blank.

(Continued on next page)






PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
ASBESTOS (continued)	<p>If unsure whether material contains asbestos, contact a qualified asbestos professional to assess the material. Sample and test as needed. </p> <p>Note <i>The EPA vermiculate guidance referenced below includes photos to aid the identification of vermiculite insulation.</i></p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) maintains a list of asbestos laboratories accredited under the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call NIST at (301) 975-4016 or email NVLAP@nist.gov. • NIST/NVLAP: Accredited Laboratories for the Polarized Light Microscopy (PLM) Test Method. • NIST/NVLAP: Accredited Laboratories for the Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM) Test Method. <p>DOL, OSHA, 29 CFR Part 1926, subpart Z.</p> <p>EPA Asbestos: Asbestos in Your Home.</p> <p>EPA Asbestos: Regional and State Asbestos Contacts.</p> <p>EPA Vermiculite.</p> <p>If working in a pre-1980 building, see: Appendix A: Worker Protection – Asbestos and Confined Spaces. </p>	<p>When working around ACM, do not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust, sweep or vacuum ACM debris. • Saw, sand, scrape or drill holes in the material. • Use abrasive pads or brushes to strip materials. <p>Do not remove OR disturb attic insulation that looks like vermiculite unless the material has been tested and found not to contain asbestos.</p> <p>Any asbestos abatement or repair work should be completed prior to blower door testing. Exercise appropriate caution when conducting blower door testing where friable asbestos or vermiculite attic insulation is present to avoid drawing asbestos fibers into the living space (i.e., use positively pressurized blower door testing) unless the material has been tested and found not to contain asbestos.</p> <p>Notes <i>Appropriate identification of ACM is necessary to ensure the continued safety of the occupants and the safety of workers, who may not be aware of asbestos hazards. </i></p> <p><i>If ACM may be disturbed during a planned retrofit, a competent person needs to conduct an initial exposure assessment to determine potential worker exposures and required exposure controls. </i></p> <p><i>Asbestos awareness training is recommended for retrofit workers, especially auditors and crew chiefs. </i></p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards BPI Technical Standards: Technical Standards for the Heating Professional.</p> <p>DOL, OSHA, Asbestos.</p> <p>DOL, OSHA, Asbestos – Construction.</p> <p>EPA Asbestos: Asbestos in Your Home.</p> <p>EPA Vermiculite.</p>	



PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
BELOWGROUND CONTAMINANTS (except radon)			
	<p>Visually evaluate potential sources AND check for odors of gasoline, sewer gas or fuel oil.</p> <p>Visually evaluate the integrity of sewer vent system (e.g., ensure drain traps have water in them, inspect drain lines for breaks or leaks), particularly if there is the odor of sewer gas in the home (e.g., during the initial assessment or a fan depressurization test).</p> <p>If you detect an odor but cannot identify its source and the house is in a known contaminated area, notify local or state authorities AND/OR pursue additional assessment before making additional energy upgrades.</p> <p>If soil or groundwater contamination is suspected on or near the building site (e.g., former industrial site), volatile contaminants or breakdown products may pose an indoor air quality risk through soil gas intrusion. In such cases, EPA recommends further assessment before air sealing. Consult your state OR tribal voluntary brownfield cleanup program OR environmental regulatory agency for information on the risks of vapor intrusion in your area.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASTM E2600. EPA OSWER Draft Guidance for Evaluating Vapor Intrusion.</p>	<p>Repair or replace failed or unattached sewer vent system components before proceeding with energy retrofits.</p> <p>If the assessments reveal sewer gas odors from drain traps that are dry due to infrequent use, fill the traps with a non-toxic liquid that has a slow evaporation rate (e.g., mineral oil).</p> <p>If soil gas vapor intrusion is suspected, assess AND mitigate in compliance with state or local standards. If there are no such standards, follow EPA guidance, below, for vapor intrusion evaluation and mitigation.</p> <p>Note <i>The causes or sources of contaminants must be identified and corrected before air sealing or other weatherization retrofit actions are performed to ensure the problem is not exacerbated.</i></p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASPE Data Book. Conduct work in compliance with state and local standards. Otherwise follow: ASTM E2600. EPA OSWER Draft Guidance for Evaluating Vapor Intrusion. EPA Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Approaches.</p>	<p>If there is an untrapped floor drain, consider installing a low-cost floor drain seal like those often used during radon mitigations, as described in ASTM E2121.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASTM E2121.</p>

PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
BUILDING PRODUCTS/ MATERIALS EMISSIONS			
	<p>Review information on the contents of products being considered for purchase and installation during an energy upgrade project to determine whether they contain potentially hazardous compounds. Many of these products and materials (e.g., paints, particle board, pressed wood, insulation, sealants, plywood and cleaning supplies) may contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including formaldehyde, or other hazardous compounds to which exposure should be minimized or eliminated during and after an energy upgrade.</p> <p>Assess ventilation to determine compliance with the Minimum Actions and Whole-House Ventilation for Distributed Contaminant Sources (page 22).</p> <p>Note: <i>Dilution using whole-house ventilation will help reduce VOCs and other airborne contaminants from indoor sources in most homes.</i></p> <p>In most circumstances, testing for VOCs is not necessary. If odors or occupant complaints indicate potential VOCs or other airborne contaminants, follow the source control and ventilation actions under Minimum Actions and Expanded Actions.</p> <p>If working with materials associated with chemical emissions or dust generation, including spray polyurethane foam insulation, see Jobsite Safety (page 24) and Appendix A: Worker Protection. </p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards American Chemistry Council: Spray Polyurethane Foam Health and Safety. DOL, OSHA, Green Jobs Hazards. EPA SPF: Spray Polyurethane Foam, Building Occupants and Other Workers Should Vacate During SPF Installation. Whole-House Ventilation for Distributed Contaminant Sources (page 22).</p>	<p>Minimize occupant and worker exposure to VOCs or other airborne contaminants by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that work areas are properly isolated (e.g., by sealing with plastic sheeting) and ventilated to the outdoors during activities that result in VOC emissions (e.g., installing spray foam insulation, painting, sealing, finishing) AND that they are ventilated as close as possible to the source of those emissions. Using appropriate dust-control and protective equipment. Thoroughly cleaning work areas and allowing any odors to dissipate before re-occupancy. Following manufacturers' recommendations, which may indicate the need to evacuate building occupants and other unprotected individuals from work areas during and for some period after the use of a product. <p>Source Control When installing new products and materials, consider using the least toxic product or material feasible to effectively do the job. For example, use products and materials that indicate they have (or are certified as having) low VOC content or low VOC emissions. </p> <p>Note: <i>California Title 17 requires reduced formaldehyde emissions from composite wood products and finished goods that contain composite wood products sold, offered for sale, supplied, used or manufactured for sale in California.</i></p> <p>Ventilation Ensure the home meets the Minimum Actions in the Whole-House Ventilation for Distributed Contaminant Sources section (page 22).</p> <p>Ventilate the building with as much outside air as possible before permanently occupying. Do not conduct a "bake-out" in an attempt to reduce VOC emissions after the building is occupied, because it may cause VOCs to be absorbed by other interior materials and may damage building components. </p>	<p>New Products Source Control When available, specify products and materials that meet independent certification and testing protocols, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> California Department of Public Health, Emission Testing Method for California Specification 01350. Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) Green Label or Green Label Plus program criteria or equivalent standards for carpet. Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) High Performance Products Database. Green Seal Standard GS-11. Greenguard Children and Schools Certification Program. Master Painters Institute (MPI) Green Performance Standards GPS-1 or GPS-2. Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) Standard EC-10.2-2007, Indoor Advantage Gold. <p>When installing structural plywood or pressed or composite wood products, select those that are certified compliant with California Title 17. If California Title 17 compliant materials are not available, use products that meet section 6.1 of EPA's Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications.</p> <p>Existing Condition Source Control/ Supplemental Ventilation If odors, complaints or testing indicate potential VOCs or other airborne contaminants, remove any potential sources (e.g., hobby materials, fiberglass that may contain formaldehyde) from the room or area. If removal is not feasible, consider installing local exhaust ventilation for sources that are isolated in a specific room or area.</p>



(Continued on next page)



PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
BUILDING PRODUCTS/ MATERIALS EMISSIONS <i>(continued)</i>		<p>Relevant Guidance/Standards American Chemistry Council: Spray Polyurethane Foam Health and Safety. California Title 17. EPA SPF: Spray Polyurethane Foam. Whole-House Ventilation for Distributed Contaminant Sources (page 22).</p>	<p>Seal composite wood products (e.g., particle board and pressed wood) that are not compliant with California Title 17 or that do not meet section 6.1 of EPA's Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications with a sealant intended to reduce VOC emissions. Seal all exposed surfaces and holes, as appropriate. Check with vendors for recommendations on sealing their engineered wood products. If these actions do not solve the problem (e.g., persistent odors, occupant complaints), hiring an environmental professional and testing may be necessary.</p> <p>Testing If VOCs appear to be present based on odors or complaints and source control or ventilation do not alleviate the problem, testing by a qualified professional may be useful.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards California Department of Public Health, Emission Testing Method for California Specification 01350. California Title 17. CARB: Formaldehyde. CHPS. CRI. EPA Design for the Environment. EPA Indoor airPLUS Specification Section 6. Green Seal Standard GS-11. Greenguard Children and Schools Certification Program. MPI GPS-1 and GPS-2. SCS Standard EC-10.2-2007. Whole-House Ventilation for Distributed Contaminant Sources (page 22).</p>





PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) AND OTHER COMBUSTION APPLIANCE EMISSIONS (NITROGEN OXIDES, VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS [VOCs] AND PARTICULATES)			
	<p>Locate and identify any fuel-burning combustion appliances in the home (e.g., gas, oil, kerosene, wood- or coal-burning appliances). See Combustion Safety (page 18) and Wood Smoke and Other Solid Fuel Emissions (page 16) for assessment protocols to complete safety inspections of all combustion appliances in a dwelling.</p> <p>Determine if there is an attached garage. See Garage Air Pollutants (page 8) for ways to locate air leaks from a garage to occupied spaces.</p> <p>Determine whether there are working carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and smoke alarms. </p> <p>Ask occupants whether they have supplemental portable combustion equipment (e.g., generators, unvented gas or kerosene space heaters). </p> <p>Test interior living space for CO. Avoid testing near combustion equipment that has already undergone CO testing.</p> <p>Test for CO outside of the home (e.g., near front entrance) to document general outdoor levels. Avoid testing near obvious sources of CO (e.g., motor vehicles, lawn equipment).</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards BPI-1100-T-2010, Combustion Appliance Testing section.</p> <p>Combustion Safety (page 18).</p> <p>Garage Air Pollutants (page 8).</p> <p>Wood Smoke and Other Solid Fuel Emissions (page 16).</p>	<p>If CO levels in interior living spaces exceed outdoor levels, investigate potential sources and take appropriate action to reduce them (e.g., have a qualified professional tune, repair or replace improperly operating combustion appliances; apply weatherstripping or conduct air sealing between the garage and the home).</p> <p>Specify and install CO alarms in all homes. See Home Safety (page 23) for details. </p> <p>See Garage Air Pollutants (page 8) for recommendations on how to minimize the movement of air and contaminants (including CO and other combustion appliance emissions) from the garage to the house.</p> <p>See Combustion Safety (page 18) and Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Equipment (page 17), as appropriate, for recommendations on repairing, removing or replacing combustion appliances.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards Combustion Safety (page 18).</p> <p>Garage Air Pollutants (page 8).</p> <p>Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Equipment (page 17).</p> <p>Home Safety (page 23).</p>	<p>See Home Safety (page 23) for recommended installation of CO alarms that can detect and store peak CO levels of less than 30 ppm. </p> <p>See the Expanded Actions for Garage Air Pollutants (page 8) for additional recommendations on minimizing airflow from the garage to the house.</p> <p>See the Expanded Actions for Combustion Safety (page 18) for additional recommendations on repairing, removing or replacing combustion appliances.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards Combustion Safety (page 18).</p> <p>Garage Air Pollutants (page 8).</p> <p>Home Safety (page 23).</p>

PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE (ETS)			
	<p>Single Family Dwelling: Look for signs of smoking indoors (e.g., ashtrays, cigarette packs, odors).</p> <p>Multi-Family Dwelling: Determine whether there is a smoke-free housing policy. Determine whether tenants have complained about smoking odors or smoking related concerns.</p>	<p>Single-Family Dwelling: See Appendix B: Client Education. </p> <p>Multi-Family Dwelling: If there have been complaints, ask the owner if a smoke-free housing policy is being considered. If a policy has not been adopted, address the complaints through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce unintended excess airflow from common exhaust ventilation systems due to duct and shaft leakage, excess fan flow and unbalanced unit flows. • Seal enough to enable ventilation systems to increase capture in smokers' units, match flows to remove fan-induced pressure difference between units, and increase outdoor air supply ventilation rates in non-smokers' units. • Reduce ETS transfer from smokers' units by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air sealing the walls, ceilings and floors that separate the unit from neighboring units, corridors, chases and stairwells. Seal smoker's unit as tightly as possible. • Adjusting outdoor air and exhaust flows so the unit is negative relative to bounding wall and ceiling cavities and the overall ventilation rate for the unit has increased. Smoke current tubes or other air flow tests should show that air flows into the dwelling unit through openings in bounding walls (e.g., electrical outlets). <p>Note <i>The above air sealing strategies are intended to help reduce the exposure of occupants in the non-smoking units adjacent to the smokers' units. These actions may not reduce the risks of ETS to occupants living in the smokers' units.</i></p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASHRAE 62.2-2010. MNCEE: Reduction of Environmental Tobacco Smoke Transfer in Minnesota Multifamily Buildings Using Air Sealing and Ventilation Treatments.</p>	<p>This cell is intentionally blank.</p>


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PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE (ETS) <i>(continued)</i>			
		<p>NCHH Fact Sheet: Improving Ventilation in Existing or New Buildings with Central Roof Exhaust.</p> <p>NCHH Fact Sheet: Improving Ventilation in Multi-Family Buildings That Do Not Have Fan-Powered Ventilation Systems.</p> <p>NCHH Fact Sheet: Improving Ventilation in New and Existing Multi-Family Buildings with Individual Unit Ventilation Systems.</p>	
GARAGE AIR POLLUTANTS (CO, BENZENE AND VOCs)			
	<p>If there is an attached garage (i.e., sharing at least one wall, ceiling, ductwork, etc.), identify the location of any air leaks from the garage to the occupied spaces that may provide pathways for hazardous emissions to enter the occupied spaces. Look for leaks around walls, doors, ceilings, ductwork, air conditioners, furnaces, chimneys and electrical and pipe penetrations.</p> <p>Determine (visual inspection and/or occupant inquiry) if there are unvented combustion appliances or hobby equipment that may be used in the garage.</p> <p>Note <i>If combustion appliances are present, see Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Other Combustion Appliance Emissions (page 6), Vented Combustion Appliances (page 18) and Unvented Combustion Appliances (page 20) for recommended actions.</i></p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Other Combustion Appliance Emissions (page 6). Energy Conservatory: Blower Door. Unvented Combustion Appliances (page 20). Vented Combustion Appliances (page 18).</p>	<p>To minimize the movement of air and contaminants from the attached garage to the house, air seal walls and ceilings separating the garage from the living spaces. </p> <p>At a minimum, air seal these locations (if present):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors (ensure tight closure AND install weather-stripping). • Electrical, plumbing and duct penetrations. • Cracks between mud sill, rim joists, subfloors and/or bottom of gypsum board. • Leaks in the ductwork and air handlers and gaps around the ductwork penetrating from the garage to the occupied space. <p>To keep garage air from being drawn into the home, eliminate or disconnect supply diffusers and return grilles in the garage that connect to air handlers serving the occupied space.</p> <p>If heat is needed in the garage, use a properly installed supplemental heating system.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ACCA 5 QI-2010. ASHRAE 62.2-2010.</p>	<p>Steps that can reduce air pressure in the garage and minimize flow from the garage to the house include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If occupants spend significant time in the garage (e.g., the garage is used as a workshop or playroom), at a minimum, install local exhaust fan(s) rated for continuous operation and vented outdoors in attached garages in accordance with section 5.6 of EPA's Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications or 2009 International Mechanical Code, table 403.3. • Relocate the air handling equipment and associated ductwork from the garage to an area within a conditioned space. • If accessible, add blocking in the floor system to assist with air sealing between the garage and living space in homes that have a room above the garage. • Use advanced blower door techniques (see guidance listed below) to identify air leakage pathways between the house and garage and to verify the effectiveness of air sealing. <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards EPA Indoor airPLUS Specification 5.6. Home Energy, Advanced Blower Door Techniques. International Mechanical Code, 2009.</p>




PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
LEAD			
	<p>Assume there is lead-based paint in homes built before 1978 unless testing shows otherwise. Determine whether paint will be disturbed by the work or the assessment.</p> <p>Consider using an EPA-recognized testing method (e.g., X-ray fluorescence [XRF] testing, or an on-site test kit) on suspect surfaces that will be disturbed in order to determine whether the paint is lead-based. The lead-safe work practices minimum and expanded actions apply only to paint assumed to be or tested to confirm that it is lead-based.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards HUD Title 24.</p> <p>EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Program Rule: 24 CFR Part 25, subpart J.</p> <p>EPA Lead.</p> <p>EPA Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program: Small Entity Compliance Guide to Renovate Right.</p> <p>If working in a pre-1978 building, see Appendix A: Worker Protection – Lead. </p>	<p>Comply with EPA's Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Program Rule. Among the rule's key elements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a Certified Renovator. • Follow lead-safe work practices if disturbing more than 6 ft² of interior or 20 ft² of exterior painted surfaces. • Contain the work area to avoid resident exposure. • Minimize lead dust and leave no dust or debris behind. • Achieve visual post-cleaning criteria. <p>Comply with state and local lead-related regulations, which may be applicable to lead hazard reduction activities and may require additional certified personnel.</p> <p>Note <i>This is not a complete summary of the regulatory requirements. The intent of this protocol is to promote the most health-protective steps that are feasible and practical. The minimum action recommended in this protocol is to comply with whatever the most current version of the RRP Program Rule prescribes.</i></p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards DOL, OSHA, Lead.</p> <p>EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Program Rule: 24 CFR Part 25, subpart J.</p> <p>EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Program Rule: 40 CFR Part 745.</p> <p>EPA Lead Accredited Training Programs.</p>	<p>Follow the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) lead-safe rehabilitation practices. In addition to EPA's RRP, these HUD practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower the thresholds for interior painted surface area from 6 ft² to 2 ft². • Require repair of painted surfaces that are disturbed when using lead-safe work practices. • Require meeting lead dust clearance testing standards if more than 2 ft² of paint is disturbed. <p>Note <i>Lead dust clearance testing includes measuring for lead dust on floors, windowsills and window troughs. See NCHH Fact Sheet: Testing for Lead-Contaminated Dust.</i></p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Program Rule: 24 CFR Part 25, subpart J.</p> <p>HUD Lead Safe Work Practices.</p> <p>NCHH Fact Sheet: Testing for Lead-Contaminated Dust.</p>
	<p>Inspect the interior and exterior of the building for evidence of moisture problems. Document the extent and location of the problems, and the proposed repairs, to avoid exacerbating the problems when the repairs are made. Examples of moisture and mold problems are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water damage or stains. • Foundation cracks that leak water. • Visible mold growth. 	<p>Repair roof leaks before air sealing or insulating the attic.</p> <p>Address surface water pooling near the foundation before insulating basement or crawlspace walls near wet areas.</p>	<p>Repair additional moisture problems identified during the assessment (e.g., plumbing leaks, rain leaks including leaks around windows and flashing, and foundation leaks).</p> <p>Retrofit crawlspaces so that they are unvented, sealed, insulated, properly drained and waterproofed, following guidance in section 1.4 of EPA's Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications.</p>

PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
MOISTURE (MOLD AND OTHER BIOLOGICALS) <i>(continued)</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet or damp spots. • Musty odor. • Moisture damage on windows. • Groundwater, surface water and rainwater intrusion. • Plumbing leaks. • Condensation. • Consider temperature, relative humidity and absolute humidity (e.g., dew point temperature and humidity ratio [i.e., pounds or grains of water vapor per pound of dry air]). <p>Determine whether the project requires mold remediation and additional moisture control measures (e.g., as determined during a Weatherization Assistance Program audit).</p> <p>Document which moisture problems will be addressed as part of the energy-conserving project, and which must be repaired by the homeowner or another contractor before certain, specific energy conserving measures can be implemented.</p> <p>If moisture issues cannot be addressed, do not install energy upgrades that will reduce the home's air infiltration rate. Homes where this may be the case include those that have significant condensation or humidity problems, such as condensation on multiple windows, condensation in attics or significant moisture or mold problems that are beyond the scope of the remedies under Minimum Actions.</p> <p>See Appendix A: Worker Protection – Mold and Confined Spaces as appropriate. </p>	<p>Manage rainwater in assemblies receiving retrofits (e.g., drainage planes and flashings), following guidance in EPA's Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications 1.5 and 1.6.</p> <p>Ensure proper HVAC condensate drainage.</p> <p>Prevent condensation in the enclosure by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air sealing the enclosure. <i>Note: This also prevents ice dams in cold, snowy climates.</i> • Managing water vapor flow and condensing surface temperatures to avoid dew point conditions (achieved by selection of materials with appropriate combination of R-value and vapor permeability). • Managing air pressure relationships as needed. • Controlling indoor humidity sources, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring bath fans are operating properly and vented to the outdoors. • Ensuring clothes dryers are correctly vented to the outdoors. • Covering earthen floors in basements and crawlspaces with sealed vapor barriers; seal sump crocks. • If adding an air conditioning (AC) unit, ensure it is sized properly. If the relative humidity or moisture in the air is high, evaluate whether the AC unit is oversized. • Install dehumidifiers, if appropriate. • Remove unvented combustion space heaters. • Ensure proper crawlspace ventilation. • Ensure proper attic ventilation, unless sealed or conditioned. <p>Conduct any required mold remediation following EPA or other professional guidance (see Appendix A, Mold section, page 34). </p> <p>See Mold and Moisture section in Appendix B: Client Education. </p>	<p>Perform additional activities, beyond those required for the weatherization project, in order to remediate any mold growth. Follow EPA or other professional guidance (see Appendix A, Mold section, page 34). </p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards EPA Indoor airPLUS Specification: 1.4. EPA Mold Remediation.</p>

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PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
MOISTURE (MOLD AND OTHER BIOLOGICALS) <i>(continued)</i>			
	Relevant Guidance/Standards DOE: Workforce Guidelines for Home Energy Upgrades (under development).	Notes <i>Replacing an atmospherically vented or fan-powered combustion device that draws combustion air from inside the home with a high-efficiency sealed combustion device can reduce the ventilation rate, which could result in cold-weather condensation in some building enclosures.</i> <i>If an atmospherically vented combustion device is causing an indoor humidity problem, it should be repaired in accordance with the Combustion Safety section (page 18).</i> Relevant Guidance/Standards Combustion Safety (page 18). DOE: Workforce Guidelines for Home Energy Upgrades (under development). EPA Indoor airPLUS Specifications 1.5 and 1.6.	
OZONE			
	Determine if there is any air-cleaning equipment designed to intentionally produce ozone (i.e., ozone generators) in the house. Relevant Guidance/Standards CARB: Ozone.	Do not install air-cleaning equipment designed to intentionally produce ozone (i.e., ozone generators). Recommend removal of air-cleaning equipment designed to intentionally produce ozone, if present. Relevant Guidance/Standards EPA Indoor airPLUS Specification 4.7. EPA IAQ: Ozone Generators that are Sold as Air Cleaners.	This cell is intentionally blank.
PESTS			
	Identify evidence of mice, squirrels or other rodents; termites; birds; bats; cockroaches or other pests. Note the location and identify pest-contaminated materials (e.g., nests, feces). Determine whether rodenticides or pesticides are being used. Remove pest-infested materials OR determine if professional assistance is needed to do so before conducting energy retrofit work in pest-infested areas.	Alert owner of any termite infestations and inform owner of the need to seek assistance from an integrated pest management (IPM) professional (e.g., Greenpro, Greenshield or equivalently trained IPM professional). In areas with evidence of rodent infestations, patch with pest-resistant materials (e.g., copper mesh, hardware cloth, sheet metal, concrete) exterior holes that are larger than ¼ inch by ⅜ inch before applying air sealing materials (e.g., caulk or foam) OR before insulating.	Protect air intakes from potential bird and pest entry (e.g., cover openings with ½-inch screen or galvanized mesh). Protect exhaust vents from rodent, bird and pest entry (e.g., cover openings with louvers). Avoid creating conditions that can clog exhaust, particularly dryer vents.

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PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
PESTS (continued)			
	<p>Note Termite and some other types of pest infestations are often an indication of moisture problems. See Moisture (page 9) for diagnosing moisture problems.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards AFHH. CDC Resource on Rodents.</p>	<p>Advise owner/resident to regularly clean/fix screens or dampers over exterior air intakes and exhausts (e.g., at least semi-annually or when replacing HVAC filters). Remove clutter, eliminate wood piles near house, and remove bushes, trees or other vegetation closer than two feet from the structure. </p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards EPA IPM. NCHH IPM. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.</p>	<p>Follow IPM guidelines for roach control AND, if feasible, apply boric acid or gels in holes for roach issues. Follow relevant state pesticide applicator standards.</p> <p>Note Some states require that pest management professionals be licensed.</p> <p>Provide sealable outside garbage cans OR advise clients to use them.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASHRAE 62.2-2010. EPA IPM. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.</p>
POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs)			
	<p>Determine whether fluorescent light ballasts containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are present.</p> <p>Note Some homes may contain fluorescent light fixtures with ballasts manufactured before 1979 that contain polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Ballasts manufactured between 1979 and 1998 that do not contain PCBs were required to be labeled “No PCBs.” Newer fluorescent lighting typically uses electronic ballasts that do not contain PCBs and should be clearly marked as electronic.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards EPA PCB-Containing Light Ballasts.</p>	<p>If fluorescent light ballasts do not have the statement “No PCBs” or are not marked as electronic, assume that the ballasts contain PCBs and replace with new lighting fixtures OR contact the manufacturer to determine whether the ballasts contain PCBs. If the manufacturer is not sure whether the ballasts contain PCBs, assume that they do and replace with new lighting fixtures.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards EPA PCB. EPA PCB-Containing Light Ballasts.</p>	<p>The presence of PCBs may not be limited to fluorescent light ballasts. PCBs were also used in other products, including caulk. See EPA’s website on PCBs for a complete list of products of concern, and where possible, remove and replace them.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards EPA PCB. EPA PCBs in Caulk.</p>
RADON			
	<p>Follow one of two testing options to determine the radon level as summarized below and in Table 1.</p> <p>Option 1: Test-In/Test-Out – Test for radon before and after energy upgrade work. Option 2: Post-Work Test – Test for radon only after completing energy upgrade work.</p>	<p>Before completing retrofit activities, take precautionary measures listed below in Column 1 of Table 1, depending on pre-work test results. After work, follow the appropriate Minimum and/or Expanded Actions outlined in Table 1, depending on post-work test results.</p>	<p>Additional actions to reduce radon exposure are summarized below and outlined in Table 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigate according to ASTM E2121 when the post-work radon level is ≥ 4 pCi/L. • If the post-work radon level is between 2 and 4 pCi/L, refer the client to EPA’s Citizen’s Guide to Radon or mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121.




PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
RADON <i>(continued)</i>	<p>Perform radon testing in accordance with applicable state requirements or federal guidance. Individuals conducting tests should be trained or certified by either of these groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) National Radon Proficiency Program. National Radon Safety Board (NRSB). <p>Notes</p> <p><i>Two radon tests may be performed simultaneously and averaged to increase confidence in the short-term test result. This approach can be used for both pre- and post-work testing. Another option is to take two tests sequentially. DO NOT average the pre-work and post-work test results.</i></p> <p><i>Long-term testing is the most accurate way to test for radon, but it may not be feasible. See EPA's Citizen's Guide to Radon for information on long-term testing.</i></p> <p><i>The recommended testing protocols are designed to ensure that radon exposure does not increase above EPA thresholds in homes where radon levels are initially below those thresholds. This protocol is not designed to mitigate radon risks that existed prior to the energy upgrade. All clients should be provided with radon testing results.</i></p> <p>Determine whether the home has an active or passive radon mitigation system.</p> <p>Note</p> <p><i>Active mitigation systems include a radon vent fan, usually located in an attic, in an attached garage or on the building exterior.</i></p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards</p> <p>ASHI Radon Mitigation System Inspection Checklist.</p> <p>EPA Radon Guidance: Guidance for Radon Testing and Mitigation.</p> <p>EPA Radon: State Radon Contact Information.</p>	<p>When the pre-work radon level is ≥ 2 pCi/L, complete precautionary foundation air sealing strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover exposed earthen floors in basements and crawlspaces according to section 1.2 of EPA's Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications. Air seal sumps (e.g., install an airtight sump cover) in such a way that water can drain from above and below the sump cover. Install airtight drain fittings (e.g., trap or flange system) in foundation floor drains. Seal and caulk penetrations, openings or cracks in below-grade walls and floors that contact the ground with a sealant that meets the requirements of ASTM C920. <p>Note</p> <p><i>These foundation air sealing strategies are also important elements of radon mitigation according to ASTM E2121, which addresses both foundation air sealing and fan-powered radon mitigation systems.</i></p> <p>Educate the client about the test results and radon reduction measures that were followed. Inform the client that the radon testing protocols were completed to ensure that the energy upgrade work did not introduce indoor radon problems, but the protocols do not necessarily mitigate a prior indoor radon problem in the home. Advise the client to refer to EPA's Citizen's Guide to Radon for more information about radon risk. 🏠</p> <p>Mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121 if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option 1: Post-work radon level is ≥ 4pCi/L AND it exceeds the pre-work radon level OR Option 2: Post-work radon level is ≥ 4pCi/L AND no pre-work levels were taken. 	<p>Relevant Guidance/Standards</p> <p>ASTM C920.</p> <p>ASTM E2121.</p> <p>EPA Radon. State Radon Contact Information.</p> <p>EPA Radon Guidance: Citizen's Guide to Radon.</p>

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PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
RADON <i>(continued)</i>		<p>For homes equipped with an active radon mitigation system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify that the radon vent fan is operating. • If a previously installed radon mitigation system is not operating correctly OR if the post-work tested radon level is ≥ 4 pCi/L, advise the client to consult the state radon office. <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASTM C920. ASTM E2121. EPA Indoor airPLUS Specification 1.2. EPA Radon Guidance: Citizen's Guide to Radon.</p>	

Table 1: Radon Testing Options and Reduction Strategies



Pre-Work Test Result and Precautionary Measures	Post-Work Test Result	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
<2 pCi/L <i>Consider precautionary radon-reduction actions as part of energy upgrade work, especially covering exposed earth, air sealing open sumps, ensuring floor drains have traps and that traps are not dry.</i>	<2 pCi/L	No action.	
	>2 and <4 pCi/L	Complete foundation air sealing strategies.	For post-work radon levels between 2 and 4 pCi/L, refer client to EPA's Citizen's Guide to Radon and Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction and/or mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121.
	≥4 pCi/L ≥4 pCi/L	Mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121.	
>2 and <4 pCi/L <i>Take precautionary radon-reduction actions: complete foundation air sealing strategies as part of energy upgrade work.</i>	<4 pCi/L and NOT higher than pre-work level.	No further minimum action.	For post-work radon levels between 2 and 4 pCi/L, refer client to EPA's Citizen's Guide to Radon and Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction and/or mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121.
	<4 pCi/L AND higher than pre-work level.	Verify that foundation air sealing strategies were completed appropriately and correct deficiencies.	For post-work radon levels between 2 and 4 pCi/L, refer client to EPA's Citizen's Guide to Radon and Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction and/or mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121.
	≥4 pCi/L	Mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121.	
≥4 pCi/L <i>Complete all foundation air sealing strategies as part of energy upgrade work.</i>	<4 pCi/L	No further minimum action.	For post-work radon levels between 2 and 4 pCi/L, refer client to EPA's Citizen's Guide to Radon and Consumer's Guide to Radon Reduction and/or mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121.
	≥4 pCi/L but NOT higher than pre-work level.	Refer client to EPA's Citizen's Guide to Radon and recommend radon mitigation.	Mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121.
	≥4 pCi/L AND higher than pre-work level.	Mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121.	
No Pre-Work Test <i>Consider precautionary radon-reduction actions as part of energy upgrade work, especially covering exposed earth, air sealing open sumps, ensuring floor drains have traps and that traps are not dry.</i>	<4 pCi/L	No further minimum action.	For post-work radon levels between 2 and 4 pCi/L, refer client to EPA's Citizen's Guide to Radon and Consumers Guide to Radon Reduction and/or mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121.
	≥4 pCi/L	Mitigate in accordance with ASTM E2121.	

PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
WOOD SMOKE AND OTHER SOLID FUEL EMISSIONS			
	<p>Determine whether there are wood- or coal-burning appliances (e.g., wood stove or furnace, wood pellet stove, fireplace) in the home.</p> <p>If wood- or coal-burning appliances are present, determine whether there is evidence of wood smoke emissions affecting the home, using any of the following practices or the equivalent (note that many of the following may require input from certified/trained professionals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for evidence of soot on the walls or ceiling or creosote staining near the flue pipe. • Determine whether the inside of the home smells like wood smoke. • Ask occupants whether they regularly (i.e., daily) smell wood smoke during the heating season. • If certified/trained professionals are available, consider using a particle counter to quantify particulates in the indoor air. <p>Assess appliance safety by considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appliance condition, especially leaks, cracks or faulty flue connections. • Proper distance of appliance to combustible materials (minimum clearances) and/or proper protection of combustibles. • Proper size and materials of floor protection. • Proper venting system (Vented Combustion Appliances [page 18] and Unvented Combustion Appliances [page 20]). <p>Determine whether the wood- or coal-burning appliance is EPA-certified (i.e., more energy efficient and cleaner burning).</p> <p>Determine whether a hydronic heater (e.g., outdoor wood-fired boiler) is present.</p> <p>If the wood- or coal-burning appliance is operating during the assessment, observe the opacity of the smoke leaving the chimney.</p>	<p>Assess what the proper size of any wood- or coal-burning appliances will be after the retrofit is complete. If the current unit is oversized, recommend replacement with a properly sized, EPA-certified appliance.</p> <p>If evidence of soot, wood smoke or other health safety concern is apparent, determine the source of the problem and work with the appropriate certified professional (e.g., NFI, CSIA, etc.) to resolve it.</p> <p>Encourage the homeowner to have a certified professional chimney sweep (e.g., certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America) inspect the chimney and wood- or coal-burning appliance annually. </p> <p>Share EPA Burn Wise tips with the homeowner: http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/pdfs/BurnWiseTips.pdf. </p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards CSIA. EPA Burn Wise Guides: Burn Wise Guide for Best Burn Practices for Wood Stoves. EPA Burn Wise Tips. NESCAUM Regulations. NFPA 211.</p>	<p>Replace non-certified wood- or coal-burning appliances with properly sized and installed EPA-certified wood- or coal-burning appliances after the retrofit is complete. Appliances should be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards EPA Burn Wise Lists.</p>


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PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
WOOD SMOKE AND OTHER SOLID FUEL EMISSIONS <i>(continued)</i>			
	<p>Note <i>One hundred percent opacity means nothing can be seen through the smoke. At 20% opacity, there is very little smoke and you can see almost completely through it. Smoke with opacity of more than 20% is an indication that unseasoned wood is being burned, a non-EPA approved stove is in use or poor operation.</i></p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards EPA Burn Wise Guides: Burn Wise Guide for Identifying Cleaner-Burning Appliances. Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Other Combustion Appliance Emissions (page 6). NFPA 211. Unvented Combustion Appliances (page 20) Vented Combustion Appliances (page 18)</p>		
CRITICAL BUILDING SYSTEMS FOR HEALTHY INDOOR ENVIRONMENTS			
HEATING, VENTILATING AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) EQUIPMENT			
	<p>Evaluate the condition of the existing HVAC system components (e.g., furnace, boiler, air handler, heat pump, associated ductwork) in accordance with minimum inspection standards of ANSI/ACCA Standard 4 (Maintenance of Residential HVAC Systems), ASHRAE handbooks or other equivalent standards and guidelines.</p> <p>Ventilation requirements are also addressed in Source Ventilation (page 21), Whole-House Ventilation for Distributed Contaminant Sources (page 22) and Multi-Family Ventilation (page 22).</p> <p>The HVAC assessment is to include an evaluation of whether the system is functioning properly, based on ANSI/ACCA checklists appropriate for the type of equipment. Determine whether the HVAC system is properly sized in accordance with ASHRAE handbook, or other equivalent standardized guidelines.</p>	<p>Based on an assessment of equipment condition and sizing, repair, modify or replace equipment to meet minimum corrective actions for proper HVAC function.</p> <p>If repairs are needed to restore HVAC to proper functioning, repair in accordance with ANSI/ACCA Standard 6 (Restoring the Cleanliness of HVAC Systems), ASHRAE handbooks or other equivalent standards and guidelines.</p> <p>If replacing equipment, base sizing calculations on post-retrofit conditions. Refer to Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of EPA Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications.</p> <p>Install new equipment in accordance with ANSI/ACCA Standard 5 (HVAC Quality Installation Specification) AND verify installation in accordance with ANSI/ACCA Standard 9 (HVAC Quality Installation Verification Protocols), ASHRAE handbooks or other equivalent standards and guidelines.</p>	<p>Replace functioning HVAC equipment that is near the end of its service life with new energy-efficient HVAC equipment and base sizing calculations on post-retrofit conditions. Refer to Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of EPA Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications.</p> <p>Follow ANSI/ACCA Standard 5 (HVAC Quality Installation Specification), Standard 9 (HVAC Quality Installation Verification Protocols), ASHRAE handbooks or other equivalent standards and guidelines. Consider using filters with a high MERV rating (11 or above) if equipment capacity is sufficient to accommodate the pressure drop. For existing systems, check with the manufacturer to determine whether MERV 11 filters can be installed.</p>

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PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
HEATING, VENTILATING AND AIR CONDITIONING (HVAC) EQUIPMENT <i>(continued)</i>			
	<p>If HVAC replacement or modification is anticipated, base sizing calculations on post-retrofit conditions. Refer to Sections 4.1 and 4.2 of EPA Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ACCA 4 QM-2007.</p> <p>ASHRAE Handbooks: ASHRAE Handbook Series.</p> <p>EPA Indoor airPLUS Specifications: 4.1 and 4.2.</p> <p>Multi-Family Ventilation (page 22).</p> <p>Source Ventilation (page 21).</p> <p>Whole-House Ventilation for Distributed Contaminant Sources (page 22).</p>	<p>Ensure newly installed central forced-air HVAC systems have a minimum MERV 6 filter, no filter bypass, and no air cleaners designed to intentionally produce ozone.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ACCA 5 QI-2010. ACCA 6 QR-2007. ACCA 9 QIVP-2008. ASHRAE 62.2-2010, Section 6.7. ASHRAE Handbooks: ASHRAE Handbook Series. ASHRAE 52.2-2007. EPA Indoor airPLUS Specifications: 4.1, 4.2 and 4.7. EPA IAQ: Residential Air Cleaners.</p>	<p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ACCA 5 QI-2010. ACCA 9 QIVP-2008. ASHRAE Handbooks: ASHRAE Handbook Series. ASHRAE 52.2-2007. EPA Indoor airPLUS Specifications: 4.1, 4.2 and 4.7.</p>
VENTED COMBUSTION APPLIANCES			
	<p>Complete a safety inspection of all vented combustion appliances in the dwelling (e.g., furnaces, boilers, space heaters, water heaters). The inspection shall include observations for proper clearances, condition of venting, assessment of the potential for backdrafting, integrity of fuel lines, safety of electrical connections and the appliance itself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For gas-fired appliances and equipment, make this assessment using applicable installation standards, including the National Fuel Gas Code, ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54, the applicable ANSI Z21 gas-fired appliance safety standard and manufacturer's instructions. Determine whether gas-fired appliance installations comply with Section 9.3 "Air for Combustion and Ventilation" of ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54 for proper venting, including influences of other building ventilation and exhausting equipment. 	<p>Complete all applicable actions under the Assessment Protocols AND ensure compliance with applicable codes and standards. Test combustion appliances for proper draft and venting under worst case conditions before and after retrofit measures that affect envelope leakage and airflows (e.g., air sealing, insulation, addition or upgrade of exhaust fans). Repair, remove or replace combustion equipment and address other issues or deficiencies as needed to meet the applicable codes and standards.</p> <p>Note: <i>All equipment removals should include proper disposal so that hazardous units are not reinstalled or used elsewhere.</i></p> <p>Address depressurization and potential backdrafting problems (e.g., with combustion make-up air, fan interlocks, transfer grilles, jumper ducts, louvered doors or door undercuts) OR disable the exhaust equipment causing the problems.</p> <p>If a whole-house fan is used for cooling at night, advise occupants to open several windows before operating the fan. </p>	<p>If replacing combustion equipment located in occupied or conditioned spaces as part of the retrofit process, recommend power vented or sealed combustion equipment (see Section 5.1 of EPA's Indoor airPLUS Construction Specifications). Install new combustion equipment in accordance with ANSI/ACCA 5 QI 2010 HVAC Quality Installation Specifications.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ACCA 5 QI-2010. EPA Indoor airPLUS Specification 5.1.</p>



PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
VENTED COMBUSTION APPLIANCES <i>(continued)</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For oil-fired appliances and equipment, make this assessment using applicable installation standards, including the Standard for the Installation of Oil-Burning Equipment, ANSI/NFPA 31, the applicable ANSI/UL oil-fired appliance safety standard and manufacturer's instructions. <p>Performance test vented combustion appliances (e.g., boilers, furnaces, space heaters and water heaters) to ensure proper draft under worst case depressurization and perform CO testing.</p> <p>Conduct Combustion Appliance Zone (CAZ) Worst Case Depressurization testing in accordance with BPI-1100-T-2010, Section 7.5, to determine whether there are any combustion safety issues that may result from changes to the building envelope.</p> <p>Note <i>When conducting CAZ testing, a 5 Pa depressurization limit may not be appropriate for all venting conditions. See the BPI CAZ Depressurization Limits table referenced below.</i></p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54. ANSI Z21 Series Standards for Residential Gas-Fired Appliances. BPI-1100-T-2010, Combustion Appliance Testing section. BPI Technical Standards: Technical Standards for the Building Analyst Professional, CAZ Depressurization Limits Table. Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Other Combustion Appliance Emissions (page 6). NFPA 31. NFPA 211.</p>	<p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54. ANSI Z21 Series Standards for Residential Gas-Fired Appliances. ASHRAE 62.2-2010 Section 6.4. BPI-1100-T-2010, Combustion Appliance Testing section. BPI Technical Standards: Technical Standards for the Building Analyst Professional, CAZ Depressurization Limits Table. Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Other Combustion Appliance Emissions (page 6). NFPA 31. NFPA 211.</p>	





PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
UNVENTED COMBUSTION APPLIANCES			
	<p>Identify any unvented gas or kerosene space heaters or vent-free combustion appliances (e.g., fireplaces, cooktops, ovens, kerosene or gas space heaters).</p> <p>Determine whether any state or local regulations prohibiting these devices apply.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Other Combustion Appliance Emissions (page 6).</p> <p>State or local regulations.</p>	<p>Verify that the kitchen exhaust fan vents to the outdoors. If not, see Source Ventilation (page 21) for recommended actions.</p> <p>Identify illegal unvented gas or kerosene space heaters that do not conform to state and local regulations and, with the occupant's permission, remove them as appropriate. If the space heaters are the primary source of heat, replace them with electric or vented, code-compliant heating systems.</p> <p>Note: <i>All equipment removals should include proper disposal so that hazardous units are not reinstalled or used elsewhere.</i></p> <p>With the occupant's permission, remove other unvented heaters, except when used as a secondary heat source AND when it can be confirmed that the unit is being used in conformance with ANSI Z21.11.2. Units that are not being operated in compliance with ANSI Z21.11.2 should be removed prior to the retrofit, but may remain until a replacement heating system is in place.</p> <p>If the occupant objects to these recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the occupant with information about the hazards of operating illegal unvented space heaters or operating vent-free appliances contrary to manufacturers' instructions. For example, the manufacturers' instructions may call for open windows because use of the device requires adequate or additional ventilation to remove products of combustion such as CO, nitrogen oxides, CO₂, PM and water vapor.  • For gas-fired unvented space heaters without an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS) shutoff system, suggest the occupant replace with a vented appliance or, at a minimum, consider upgrading the heater to a new model consistent with ANSI Z21.11.2/CSA. • For gas-fired unvented space heaters and vent-free fireplaces that are oversized for the application, advise the occupant of the improper sizing of the appliance. 	<p>This cell is intentionally blank.</p>


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PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
UNVENTED COMBUSTION APPLIANCES <i>(continued)</i>			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise the occupant that it is always important to consult and follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper operation and maintenance. If the manufacturer's instructions are not available to the occupant, advise or assist the occupant in obtaining replacement instructions or contacting the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) for information on obtaining these instructions for gas appliances. <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards AHRI. ANSI Z21.11.2/CSA. Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Other Combustion Appliance Emissions (page 6). Source Ventilation (page 21).</p>	
SOURCE VENTILATION			
	<p>Determine whether the home complies with the local exhaust requirements for kitchens and baths of ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010, Section 5 and Appendix A, as applicable. Determine whether kitchen and bath exhausts are present and vent to the outdoors.</p> <p>Determine whether the home complies with the local exhaust requirements for clothes dryers in ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010, Section 6. Determine whether clothes dryers vent to the outdoors. (Condensing dryers are exempt.) Inspect or verify that clothes dryer exhaust duct(s) do not discharge into crawlspaces or attics or within walls. Inspect clothes dryer vents for restrictions and lint buildup.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASHRAE 62.2-2010. BPI-1100-T-2010, Indoor Air Quality and Ventilation and Baseload Energy Efficiency sections.</p>	<p>If ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010 requirements for bathroom, kitchen and clothes dryer exhaust requirements are not met, repair, replace or install local exhaust ventilation to meet the requirements, ensuring ducts are sized, installed and vented properly to the outdoors, OR increase whole-house ventilation airflow to compensate for deficiencies of local exhaust in bathrooms and kitchens using the alternative compliance method (Appendix A of Standard 62.2-2010).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In multi-family buildings, common spaces should be served by dedicated ventilation systems. Ensure that all clothes dryers exhaust to the outdoors and cannot be readily diverted indoors. (Condensing dryers are exempt.) <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASHRAE 62.2-2010. BPI-1100-T-2010, Indoor Air Quality and Ventilation section.</p>	<p>If the home is in compliance with ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010 without bathroom or kitchen exhaust fans (i.e., using Appendix A), EPA recommends installation of exhaust fans vented to the outdoors, in accordance with Section 5 of ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010 requirements, to improve pollutant source removal.</p> <p>For spaces with strong, localized pollutant sources, consider installing additional (dedicated) local exhaust ventilation.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASHRAE 62.2-2010.</p>

PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
WHOLE-HOUSE VENTILATION FOR DISTRIBUTED CONTAMINANT SOURCES			
	<p>Determine whether the home complies with the ventilation requirements of ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Section 4 requirements OR use Appendix A – Existing Buildings if local exhaust ventilation in bathrooms and kitchens is deficient. Blower door testing and measuring fan flows (e.g., bathroom or kitchen exhaust) will be required. • Determine whether additional ventilation measures are needed to meet the ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010 requirements. <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASHRAE 62.2-2010.</p>	<p>Install additional ventilation measures as necessary to meet ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010 requirements for whole-building ventilation.</p> <p>If the local exhaust ventilation in bathrooms and kitchens is deficient, use the alternative compliance supplement (Appendix A of Standard 62.2-2010).</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASHRAE 62.2-2010.</p>	<p>Install a balanced, whole-house ventilation system (e.g., heat recovery ventilator [HRV]).</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards NAHB Research Center, http://www.toolbase.org. Search “whole-house ventilation” and “HRV” for additional resources.</p>
MULTI-FAMILY VENTILATION			
	<p>Determine ventilation system type (e.g., fan-powered exhaust, fan-powered outdoor supply or a combination of the two) and whether each system serves individual units, each floor or the entire building.</p> <p>Determine whether existing ventilation meets ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010 requirements using Appendix A – Existing Buildings for each unit. Determine whether all doors between dwelling units and common hallways are gasketed and airtight with weather stripping (except when the ventilation system design requires air transfer from corridors to units). See ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010 for additional requirements for each dwelling unit.</p> <p>Determine whether ventilation for common corridors meets ASHRAE 62.1-2010 Table 6-1 (0.06 cfm/ft² floor area).</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASHRAE 62.2-2010. ASHRAE 62.1-2010.</p>	<p>If each dwelling unit is served by its own ventilation equipment, follow Minimum Actions for Whole-House Ventilation for Distributed Contaminant Sources (page 22) and Source Ventilation (page 21). Be certain to include the sealing measures between dwelling units required in Section 6.1 of ASHRAE Standard 62.2-2010.</p> <p>If multiple dwelling units are served by a single exhaust fan, fan-powered outdoor air, or combination of the two, meet 62.2-2010 requirements, paying special attention to sealing measures in Section 6.1 plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seal all the holes that can be sealed in the ventilation ductwork. • Specify and install a balancing device at each exhaust or supply point that, in combination with a sufficiently high operating pressure, ensures constant continuous ventilation which meets the target ventilation rate during all seasons. • Adjust or replace fans so that outlets or inlets have at least 0.2 inches water column (w.c.) pressure difference across the balancing devices in each dwelling unit. • Ensure that ventilation systems run continuously or have dampers installed that prevent airflow between dwelling units when the system is off. 	<p>If each dwelling unit is served by its own ventilation equipment, follow the Expanded Actions for Whole-House Ventilation for Distributed Contaminant Sources (page 22) and Source Ventilation (page 21).</p> <p>If multiple dwelling units are served by a single exhaust fan, fan-powered outdoor air, or a combination of the two, meet all the Minimum Actions for Multi-Family Ventilation AND conduct extensive air sealing to compartmentalize each dwelling unit OR design and install individual ventilation systems for each unit to meet the requirements of ASHRAE 62.2-2010 as it applies to new construction.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASHRAE 62.2.2-2010. MNCEE: Reduction of Environmental Tobacco Smoke Transfer in Minnesota Multifamily Buildings Using Air Sealing and Ventilation Treatments. NCHH Fact Sheet: Improving Ventilation in Existing or New Buildings with Central Roof Exhaust. NCHH Fact Sheet: Improving Ventilation in Multi-Family Buildings That Do Not Have Fan-Powered Ventilation Systems.</p>

PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
MULTI-FAMILY VENTILATION <i>(continued)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use minimum MERV 6 filters on supply ventilation systems. • In buildings where vertical shafts or ducts and passive rooftop ventilators provide non-fan-powered exhaust to multiple dwelling units, add exhaust fans in combination with the above requirements to provide a more effective ventilation system. <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ASHRAE 62.2-2010.</p> <p>MNCEE: Reduction of Environmental Tobacco Smoke Transfer in Minnesota Multifamily Buildings Using Air Sealing and Ventilation Treatments.</p> <p>NCHH Fact Sheet: Improving Ventilation in Existing or New Buildings with Central Roof Exhaust.</p> <p>NCHH Fact Sheet: Improving Ventilation in Multi-Family Buildings That Do Not Have Fan-Powered Ventilation Systems.</p> <p>Source Ventilation (page 21).</p> <p>Whole-House Ventilation for Distributed Contaminant Sources (page 22).</p>	<p>Source Ventilation (page 21).</p> <p>Whole-House Ventilation for Distributed Contaminant Sources (page 22).</p>
SAFETY			
HOME SAFETY			
	<p>Determine whether there are working smoke alarms and CO alarms.</p> <p>Identify knob and tube electrical wiring.</p> <p>Identify harmful chemicals in accessible locations.</p> <p>Check whether there is a fire extinguisher in the home.</p> <p>Determine whether the hot water heater temperature setting is within the allowable limits of the local and state codes.</p> <p>Document other home safety hazards that are observed during the energy audit/assessment/retrofit (e.g., missing handrails, non-intact stairs, insufficient lighting, holes in floors).</p>	<p>Replace non-working smoke and CO alarms. If smoke alarms or CO alarms are not present, install new alarms. If new batteries are used, install 10-year lithium batteries. (It is recommended that CO alarms have a digital display and provide peak level readings.)</p> <p>Correct life-threatening safety risks (i.e., fall hazards) and provide client education on safety concerns. </p> <p>Do not bury unsafe wiring in attic insulation.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards CPSC Document #466. NFPA 720.</p>	<p>Install CO alarms that can detect and store peak CO levels of less than 30 ppm.</p> <p>Have qualified personnel replace knob and tube wiring in accordance with applicable electrical codes.</p> <p>For households with small children or elderly occupants, discuss scald prevention with clients AND adjust hot water heater set-point to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent scalding.</p> <p>In homes with elderly persons, install grab bars, handrails and lighting as appropriate.</p>

PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
HOME SAFETY <i>(continued)</i>			
	Relevant Guidance/Standards CDC Fall Prevention Checklist. CDC Home Safety Checklists. HUD Notice: Public Housing Assessment System Physical Condition Scoring Process Interim Scoring, Corrections and Republication.		<p>For households with small children, recommend installation of gates at the tops of stairs.</p> <p>Recommend installation of light switches at the top and bottom of stairs.</p> <p>Recommend installation of safety lighting above stairs. Consider energy-efficient LED lighting.</p> <p>Recommend repair of malfunctioning doors, windows, roofs and floors.</p> <p>Recommend appropriate and controlled storage of hazardous chemicals (e.g., strong cleaners, household hazardous materials) and pesticides (e.g., remove from accessible locations).</p> <p>Repair identified safety hazards.</p> <p>Relevant Guidance/Standards ANSI/UL 2034. EPA Design for the Environment.</p>
JOBSITE SAFETY			
 	<p>Evaluate existing and potential health concerns and activities. Refer to Appendix A: Worker Protection for recommended evaluation measures and actions. </p> <p>Note <i>By law, employers and supervisors are required to ensure that workers are working with an OSHA written Safety and Health Plan. More details about these requirements and resources are available in Appendix A: Worker Protection.</i></p>	<p>Protect workers and occupants from on-site health and safety hazards by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring proper isolation (e.g., sealed with plastic sheeting) and ventilation of work area to the outdoors during activities that result in VOC emissions (e.g., installing spray foam insulation, painting, sealing, finishing) AND ventilating as close to the source of VOCs as possible. • Using appropriate dust control and protective equipment. • Thoroughly cleaning work area before re-occupancy. • Adding precautions to protect occupants during and after installation of spray polyurethane foam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evacuating building occupants and other unprotected trade workers from the work area. 	<p>For additional information on each of the topics, visit the resources provided under each issue in Appendix A: Worker Protection. </p>

PRIORITY ISSUES	ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS	Minimum Actions	Expanded Actions
JOB SITE SAFETY <i>(continued)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., chemical-resistant [nitrile] gloves, appropriate respirator, chemical-resistant clothing) for anyone in work area. • Cleaning the area thoroughly and waiting until the foam cures before allowing unprotected workers or occupants to reoccupy the work area. <p>See Appendix A: Worker Protection for recommended actions to protect worker safety, including available resources. </p>	

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<http://www.cal-iag.org/vocs/standard-method-for-voc-emissions-testing-and-evaluation>
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<http://arb.ca.gov/toxics/compwood/compwood.htm>
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APPENDIX A

WORKER PROTECTION

Engaging in energy-focused retrofits, home weatherization projects, renovation or remodeling efforts can present risks to occupants, and workers’ health and safety may also be compromised if risks are not appropriately assessed and corrective actions are not taken. This appendix was developed to call attention to issues that are of concern to workers’ health and safety. Information on assessing the risks to workers, recommended actions to minimize risks to workers’ health and safety, and additional resources are provided below.

By law, employers and supervisors are required to ensure that:

- 1) Work site operations are conducted in compliance with OSHA regulatory requirements.
- 2) Workers are trained in the hazards of their job and the methods to protect themselves.
- 3) Workers are provided the protective equipment needed to reduce site exposures.

OSHA regulatory requirements identify the following construction hazards to be addressed:

Chemical Hazards	29 CFR 1926.59
Confined Space	29 CFR 1926.21 (b)(6)(i)
Electrical	29 CFR 1926 Subpart K
Falls	29 CFR 1926.501
Ladders	29 CFR 1926.1053

- Site plans should address safety and health and should include precautions to address multiple construction issues, including the issues outlined below in Table 2. Measures an employer needs to take to evaluate existing and potential health concerns, as well as recommended actions to ensure worker safety, are also included in Table 2. Free help with developing these plans is often available from state or federal training (consulting) programs.
- When known pollutants are being produced or disturbed during retrofit activities, follow appropriate standards (including OSHA, NIOSH, EPA lead safe, and BPI) to minimize worker and occupant exposure.
- When possible, choose construction products whose manufacturers disclose all ingredients and verify that they are free of formaldehyde, mercury and other known toxic substances.

Table 2: Recommended Assessments and Actions for Priority Worker Safety Concerns

<p>Asbestos</p> <p>Assessment: Determine whether workers will be exposed to asbestos-containing material (ACM).</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofitting/renovation activities may expose workers to ACM (e.g., if the home was built before 1990) and require compliance with the OSHA rule at 29 CFR 1926.1101, which provides the required protection measures. • See OSHA's website on asbestos for additional information and resources.
<p>Chemical Hazards</p> <p>Assessment: Determine whether workers will be exposed to chemical hazards.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If renovation or retrofitting activities will require the handling of chemical substances, compliance with the OSHA rule at 29 CFR 1926.59 is necessary. It requires that chemical safety information be made available for all chemicals in use, that containers be properly labeled and that workers handling them be properly trained. • See OSHA's website on chemical hazards communication for additional information and resources. <p>Confined Space</p> <p>Assessment: Determine whether workers will be exposed to confined-space hazards.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure work space has breathable air (i.e., ventilate the work space if necessary). Section 5(a)(1) of OSH ACT requires employers to protect workers from serious workplace hazards. Under the OSHA rule at 29 CFR 1926.21 (b)(6)(i), all employees required to enter confined or enclosed spaces must be instructed as to the nature of the hazards involved, the necessary precautions to be taken and the use of required protective and emergency equipment. • See OSHA's website on confined spaces and OSHA's Confined Spaces E-Tool for additional resources on confined space hazards in general industry. • See OSHA's Protecting Yourself from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Quick Card for additional information on sources of CO and recommended actions for preventing CO exposure. • See EPA's website on the Design for the Environment Program for more information on selecting less toxic products and materials for use in confined spaces.
<p>Dust</p> <p>Assessment: Determine if the work will create dust.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers should know about dust containment procedures and be able to control dust and debris created by equipment used in construction activities. • Use work methods to minimize dust and prevent dust from spreading to other areas of the home. • The rooms or areas where work is being done may need to be isolated (e.g., sealed with plastic sheeting) to contain any dust that is generated. • Turn off forced-air, central heating and air-conditioning systems (including local, window air conditioning units) while work that creates dust is being completed. • Collect and remove all construction debris. • Conduct a careful cleanup. • See OSHA's websites on wood dust, combustible dust, and permissible exposure limits (PELs) for additional information and resources. • See EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Program Rule (40 CFR Part 745) for recommended actions to prevent, contain and clean up dust.

Electrical

Assessment: Determine whether workers will be exposed to electrical hazards.

Actions:

- The OSHA rule at [29 CFR 1926 Subpart K](#) contains requirements for protecting workers from electrical hazards. Employers must make sure that all non-double-insulated electric equipment is equipped with a grounding conductor (three-wire type). Worn or frayed electric cords must not be used. Employers must provide either ground-fault circuit interrupters or an assured equipment grounding conductor program (which includes the regular testing of all equipment grounding conductors) to protect employees from ground faults.
- See [OSHA's Electrical Incidents E-Tool](#) for additional information on electrical safety.

Falls

Assessment: Determine whether workers will be required to work at heights of six feet or more.

Actions:

- If work is required at heights of six feet or more, then the workers must be protected with guard rails or tied off to prevent falling. (See OSHA rule at [29 CFR 1926.501](#) for additional information on requirements.)
- See [OSHA's website on fall protection](#) and [OSHA's Falls E-Tool](#) for additional information on protecting workers from fall hazards.

Ladders

Assessment: Determine whether workers will be using ladders.

Actions:

- If ladders are used, portable ladders must be able to support at least four times the maximum intended load. Ladders that must lean against a wall are to be positioned at a 4:1 angle. Ladders are to be kept free of oil, grease, wet paint and other slipping hazards. The area around the top and bottom of the ladder must be kept clear. Ladders must not be tied or fastened together to provide longer sections. Metal ladders must not be used while working on electrical equipment and electrical wiring. See the OSHA rule at [29 CFR 1926.1053](#) for additional information on requirements.
- See OSHA's publication, [Stairways and Ladders: A Guide to OSHA Rules](#), for additional resources on ladder safety.

Lead

Assessment: Determine whether retrofitting or renovation activities will expose workers to lead dust (paint) (e.g., pre-1978 buildings) according to the Assessment Protocols outlined in the Lead section ([page 9](#)).

Actions:

- If the facility was built before 1978, the existing paint is assumed to contain lead and retrofitting or renovation activities must comply with [EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting \(RRP\) Program Rule \(40 CFR 745\)](#) and the OSHA rule at [29 CFR 1926.62](#).
- See OSHA's publication [Lead in Construction](#) for information on OSHA requirements to protect workers from lead hazards in the construction industry.

Mold

Assessment: Determine whether workers will be exposed to mold.

Actions:

- All suspected moldy areas should be remediated by properly trained individuals. Moisture problems need to be identified and fixed or mold will return. If mold is expected to be disturbed during activities, refer to [OSHA's A Brief Guide to Mold in the Workplace](#), [NIOSH's Interim Recommendations for Cleaning and Remediation of Flood-Contaminated HVAC Systems: A Guide for Building Owners and Managers](#), [EPA's Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings](#), [ACGIH's Bioaerosols Assessment and Control](#), [AIHA's Recognition, Evaluation, and Control of Indoor Mold](#) or [IICRC's S500 Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Water Damage Restoration](#).
- See [EPA's website on mold and moisture](#) for additional information on mold and mold remediation.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Assessment: Determine whether workers may be handling PCB-containing or PCB-contaminated building materials, including fluorescent light ballasts and caulk.

Actions:

- See [EPA's website on PCB-Containing Light Ballasts](#) for information on proper maintenance, removal and disposal of PCB-containing fluorescent light ballasts. If leaking ballasts are discovered, wear protective clothing including chemical-resistant (nitrile) gloves, boots and disposable overalls.
- See [EPA's website on PCBs in Caulk](#) – Steps to Safe Renovation and Repair Activities for additional information on the safe renovation and abatement of buildings that have PCB-containing caulk. Work practices to help ensure worker and occupant safety include employing protective measures (both interior and exterior), complying with occupational protective regulations, communicating with building occupants/third parties, setting up the work area to prevent the spread of dust, using appropriate tools that minimize the generation of dust/heat, and leaving the work area clean. See OSHA rule at [29 CFR 1926.28\(a\)](#) for information on suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) for dust-generating work methods.

Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF)

Assessment: Determine whether workers will be using SPF, which may contain chemicals such as isocyanates (e.g., methylene diphenyl diisocyanate [MDI]), amines, flame retardants and other additives. There are three main types of SPF products (two-component high pressure, two-component low pressure, and one-component foam), each of which has different applications. Determine which of the three main types of SPF products will be used.

Actions:

- Applicators, helpers and building occupants in the work area are required to use protective equipment to prevent exposure to isocyanates and other SPF chemicals. Protective equipment requirements vary depending on SPF product.
- Review label and product information for ingredients, hazards, directions, safe work practices and precautions.
- Ensure health and safety training is completed and safe work practices are followed to prevent eye, skin and inhalation exposures during and after SPF installation.
- Exercise caution when determining a safe re-entry time for unprotected occupants and workers based on the manufacturer's recommendation. If you experience breathing problems or other adverse health effects from weatherizing with SPF, seek immediate medical attention.
- See [OSHA's Green Job Hazards website](#) for additional information on the hazards associated with SPF.
- See [EPA's website on SPE](#) for additional information.
- See [American Chemistry Council's Spray Polyurethane Foam Health and Safety website](#) for additional information.

Worker Protection Resources

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Confined Space

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Dust

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<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/combustibledust/index.html>

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<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/wooddust/index.html>

EPA Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Program Rule: 40 CFR Part 745: Lead: Clearance and Clearance Testing Requirements for the Renovation, Repair and Painting Program. Proposed Rule. FR Vol. 75, No. 87, pages 25038-25073. 2010. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
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<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>

Electrical

DOL, OSHA, 29 CFR Part 1926, subpart K: Electrical Standards for Construction. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration
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Falls

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<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/fallprotection/index.html>

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Ladders

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Lead

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<http://www.cdc.gov/mold/cleanup.htm>

CDC Mold Prevention Strategies: Mold Prevention Strategies and Possible Health Effects in the Aftermath of Hurricanes and Major Floods. 2006. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5508a1.htm>

CDC, NIOSH, Cleaning and Remediation of HVAC Systems: NIOSH Interim Recommendations for the Cleaning and Remediation of Flood Contaminated HVAC Systems: A Guide for Building Owners and Managers. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

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DOL, OSHA, Mold in Workplace: A Brief Guide to Mold in the Workplace. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

<http://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib101003.html>

EPA Mold: Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings. 2010. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

http://www.epa.gov/iedmold1/mold_remediation.html

EPA Mold: Mold and Moisture. 2010. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

<http://www.epa.gov/mold/>

IICRC: S500 Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Water Damage Restoration. 2006. Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification.

<http://www.iicrc.org/pdf/buydocs.pdf>

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

EPA PCB-Containing Light Ballasts: Proper Maintenance, Removal, and Disposal of PCB-Containing Fluorescent Light Ballasts. 2011. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/tsd/pubs/pubs/ballasts.htm>

EPA PCBs in Caulk – Steps to Safe Renovation and Repair Activities: 2011. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

<http://www.epa.gov/pbcsincaulk/guide/guide-sec2.htm>

DOL OSHA, 29 CFR Part 1926.28(a), subpart C: Personal Protective Equipment. Safety and Health Regulations for Construction: Occupational Health and Environmental Controls. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10614

Spray Polyurethane Foam

American Chemistry Council: Spray Polyurethane Foam Health and Safety. American Chemistry Council.

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DOL, OSHA, Green Jobs Hazards: Green Jobs Hazards, Weather Insulating/Sealing. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

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EPA SPF: Spray Polyurethane Foam. 2011. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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EPA SPF: Spray Polyurethane Foam, Building Occupants and Other Workers Should Vacate During SPF Installation. 2011. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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APPENDIX B

CLIENT EDUCATION

Why Provide Client Education

Home energy upgrades, when completed in accordance with **EPA's Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades**, can help improve the indoor air quality and safety in homes. Energy upgrade work also presents a valuable chance to interact with occupants, giving the contractor an opportunity to provide helpful education on indoor air quality and safety to further ensure the positive impact of a more energy efficient, healthier home. With effective education, occupants are better prepared to maintain healthy home improvements and less likely to create new health hazards in their homes.

Key Issues

Programs, crews and contractors are encouraged to incorporate into their client education strategies a set of messages related to 12 topics identified in the protocols for occupant education (presented here alphabetically):

1. Asbestos.
2. Asthma triggers.
3. Carbon monoxide (CO) and other combustion pollutants.
4. Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS).
5. Lead.
6. Mold and moisture.
7. Pests.
8. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).
9. Radon.
10. Safety.
11. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in household products and materials.
12. Wood smoke and solid fuel emissions.

These issues and health messages are described in Table 3, which summarizes how these priority indoor environmental concerns affect occupants and provides suggested occupant education health messages. Occupant health messages can be used to communicate key points regarding these 12 important topics for healthy indoor environments.

EPA has many publications suitable for occupant education on indoor air quality in homes, including **Care for Your Air: A Guide to Indoor Air Quality**, which can be found on EPA's Indoor Air Quality home page, www.epa.gov/iaq.

Table 3: Priority Health Concerns and Recommended Occupant Health Messages

Priority Health Concerns	Recommended Occupant Health Messages
<p>Asbestos – Asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in homes may include pipe and furnace insulation, vermiculite insulation installed before 1990, floor tiles, exterior shingles and roofing. Exposure can cause lung cancer, mesothelioma (cancer of the lining of the chest and abdominal cavity) and asbestosis, in which the lungs become scarred with fibrous tissue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not disturb materials that may contain asbestos including pipe insulation, attic vermiculite insulation, exterior shingles and floor tiles (particularly 9-inch by 9-inch tiles). • Consult state requirements for asbestos testing and mitigation.
<p>Asthma Triggers – Asthma triggers are commonly found in homes, schools and offices and include moisture, mold, dust mites, pests such as cockroaches or mice, secondhand smoke and pet dander. A home may have mold growing on a shower curtain, dust mites in pillows, blankets or stuffed animals, secondhand smoke in the air and cat and dog hairs on the carpet or floors.</p> <p>Asthma triggers cause symptoms including coughing, chest tightness, wheezing and breathing problems. An asthma attack occurs when symptoms keep getting worse or are suddenly very severe. Asthma attacks can be life threatening.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asthma can be controlled with the right medicines and by reducing asthma triggers. • For dust mites, wash bedding in hot water once a week and dry completely. Use dust-proof (allergen-impermeable) mattress and pillow covers. Choose washable stuffed toys; wash them often in hot water, and dry thoroughly. • Keep pets out of bedrooms and off furniture. Consider keeping pets outside, if possible. • See sections of this table on Environmental Tobacco Smoke, Mold and Moisture, and Pests for recommendations regarding these asthma triggers.
<p>Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Other Combustion Pollutants – Combustion pollutants are gases or particles that come from burning materials. Common combustion pollutants include carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).</p> <p>Exposure to CO can cause headaches, impaired vision and coordination, flu symptoms, dizziness, and at high concentrations, confusion, nausea and death. CO sources include combustion equipment (e.g., furnaces and wood stoves), unvented combustion appliances (e.g., vent-free fireplaces), portable generators, and other combustion equipment and automobiles operated in attached garages.</p> <p>NO₂ is a colorless, odorless gas that causes eye, nose and throat irritation, shortness of breath and an increased risk of respiratory infection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO alarms should be installed in all homes. • Annually test CO alarms. Replace every five to seven years. It is recommended that CO alarms have a digital display and provide peak level readings. <i>Note: Some CO alarms can detect and store low level peak CO levels (less than 30 ppm).</i> • Never operate a portable generator or any gasoline engine-powered tool in or near an enclosed space such as a garage, house or other building. Even with open doors and windows, these spaces can trap CO and allow it to quickly build to lethal levels. • Never warm up cars in attached garages, even if the garage door to the outside is open. • For gas vent-free heaters and fireplaces, inform occupant of identified operation or installation issues and suggested actions. • Consult manufacturer installation and operating instructions for proper operation and maintenance of gas appliances. If manufacturer instructions are not available, contact manufacturer to obtain replacement instructions or contact the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) for information on obtaining these instructions for gas appliances.
<p>Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) – Exposure to ETS, also known as “secondhand smoke,” can occur if someone smokes in a home or apartment building. Exposure to secondhand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer in adults. Children are at increased risk of ear infections, bronchitis and pneumonia, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and asthma symptoms. Secondhand smoke triggers symptoms in people who have asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondhand smoke poses health risks to non-smokers (e.g., cancer in adults, SIDS, breathing problems in children). • Do not allow smoking in the home. Smoke outside to reduce the risk to others in the home. • Provide access to information on local smoking cessation programs for those who want to quit. • Explore smoke-free housing policies for multi-family properties. Explain financial and reduced liability benefits to owners. See the National Center for Healthy Housing’s fact sheet Reasons to Explore Smoke Free Housing for additional information.

Priority Health Concerns	Recommended Occupant Health Messages
<p>Lead – Housing-related lead sources include flaking or peeling lead-based paint, leaded dust, lead in soil and lead in drinking water. Exposure can cause learning difficulties, behavior problems, hearing damage and in extreme cases seizures or death. Children under six years of age and pregnant women are at greatest risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant women and children under six years are at greatest risk. • In homes built before 1978: 1) If repainting, remodeling or disturbing paint, use lead safe-work practices; 2) Repair peeling paint using lead safe work practices in homes where young children or pregnant women live. • Consider testing blood lead levels in children younger than six years of age, if living in a pre-1978 home. • For pre-1978 homes with chipping exterior paint: Test soil for lead content and remove or cover lead-contaminated soil.
<p>Mold and Moisture – Mold can grow almost anywhere there is moisture in a house. Asthma symptoms, allergic reactions, and other respiratory symptoms can be triggered by damp indoor environments and mold. Inhaling mold spores can trigger asthma attacks in people sensitive to molds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you see mold on hard surfaces, clean it up with soap and water. Let the area dry completely. • Repair moisture problems to avoid dampness or mold. • Dry water-damaged areas and items within 24-48 hours after a leak or spill to prevent mold growth. • Avoid installing carpet in areas prone to wetting or moisture problems. • Run bathroom and kitchen fans when showering, cooking, etc., and run whole-house ventilation system according to manufacturer's instructions to help minimize moisture and contaminant buildup.
<p>Pests – Rodents, cockroaches, termites, birds, bats and other pests can be found in homes. Exposure to some pest droppings and body parts (e.g., from mice and cockroaches) can trigger asthma attacks. Rodents can also carry diseases such as hantavirus, which can result in a deadly condition called hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS). Misusing pesticides to address pest problems can sometimes result in harmful exposures to carcinogens or chemicals that result in respiratory problems or allergic reactions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow integrated pest management (IPM) strategies to reduce pest infestations and to avoid the overuse of pesticides: 1) Reduce pest access to water and food by properly storing food and trash and by using effective housekeeping techniques; 2) Limit pest entry by sealing holes and cracks; 3) Use targeted and least toxic pesticides. • Clean up pest droppings and body parts to reduce allergens. • Safely store pesticides out of reach of children.
<p>Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) – PCBs were manufactured domestically from 1929 until their manufacture was banned in 1979. PCBs have been shown to cause a variety of adverse health effects, including effects on the immune system, reproductive system, nervous system and endocrine system in animals. PCBs have also been shown to cause cancer in animals. Studies in humans provide supportive evidence for potential carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic effects of PCBs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although no longer commercially produced in the U.S., PCBs may be present in products and materials produced before the 1979 PCB ban (e.g., transformers and capacitors, cable insulation, oil-based paint, caulk, plastics, floor finish). • Materials suspected of PCB contamination should be sampled, tested and safely abated by a professional.
<p>Radon – Radon is the #1 cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. It is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer overall (after smoking), accounting for 21,000 deaths annually. A radioactive gas that comes from the natural decay of uranium in soil and water, radon can enter homes through openings in walls and floors where they come into contact with the ground. An estimated one in every 15 U.S. homes has radon levels at or above EPA's action level of 4 pCi/L.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The only way to know the radon level in your home is to test for it. • EPA and the Surgeon General recommend testing all homes below the third floor for radon. • Mitigate radon in homes if levels are greater than or equal to 4 pCi/L. Strongly consider mitigating homes with levels between 2 and 4 pCi/L. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Radon levels below 4 pCi/L still pose a health risk and in many cases may be reduced. See EPA's A Citizen's Guide to Radon. • Make sure any existing radon mitigation system is functioning properly. If a vent fan is installed, check its condition first.

Priority Health Concerns	Recommended Occupant Health Messages
<p>Safety – Trips and falls, poisoning and burns are significant injury risks in homes. Poor lighting, lack of handrails, unstable stairs and other housing hazards increase the risk of falls. Improperly stored chemicals increase the risk of poisoning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoke alarms and CO alarms should be installed in all homes and tested regularly. Replace batteries annually. Replace smoke alarms every 10 years and CO alarms every five to seven years. • Set hot water heater thermostats to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to reduce burns and scalds. • In homes where elderly persons live, reduce trip hazards, provide sufficient lighting on stairs, ensure handrails and grab bars are in key locations, and follow CDC's guide Check for Safety: A Home Fall Prevention Checklist for Older Adults. • In homes with young children, install gates at the tops of stairs and securely store chemicals and pesticides.
<p>Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in Household Products and Materials – VOCs are found in many household products and materials including paints, carpets and pads, pressed wood, composite wood, cleaning supplies, air fresheners and furniture. Exposures can cause eye, nose and throat irritation, liver damage and cancer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select low-VOC products when possible (e.g., paint, carpet, furniture, cabinets, adhesives and cleaning products). Green testing and rating programs that assess products for VOCs and other health hazards include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ California Department of Public Health, Emission Testing Method for California Specification 01350. ◦ Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) Green Label or Green Label Plus program criteria or equivalent standards for carpet. ◦ Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) High Performance Products Database. ◦ Green Seal Standard GS-11. ◦ Greenguard Children and Schools Certification Program. ◦ Master Painters Institute (MPI) Green Performance Standards GPS-1 or GPS-2. ◦ Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) Standard EC-10.2-2007 (Indoor Advantage Gold). • If using pressed or composite wood products, avoid products containing urea formaldehyde. Select products compliant with California Title 17. • Local ventilation can be used when strong sources of VOCs or other airborne contaminants are isolated to a specific room or area. Whole-house ventilation will also help reduce VOCs and other airborne contaminants in most homes. • Safely store chemicals out of reach of children.
<p>Wood Smoke and Solid Fuel Emissions – Wood stoves and fireplaces can create emissions, and exposures can cause breathing problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure fireplace chimney or wood stove flue is working properly (i.e., there is no wood smoke in the home). • Clean chimney once a year. • Follow EPA's Guide for Best Burn Practices for Wood Stoves. • If purchasing a new stove, ensure it is EPA-certified.

Client Education Resources:

Asbestos

EPA Asbestos: Asbestos in Your Home. 1990. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/ashome.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/>

Asthma Triggers

EPA Asthma: Indoor Environmental Asthma Triggers. 2011. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/triggers.html>

Carbon Monoxide

AHRI: Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute. <http://www.ahrinet.org/default.aspx>

CPSC Document #466: Carbon Monoxide Questions and Answers. 2008. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/466.html>

EPA IAQ: An Introduction to Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), Carbon Monoxide. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2011. <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/co.html>

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

EPA Smoke-free Homes and Cars Program: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2010. <http://www.epa.gov/smokefree/>

NCHH Fact Sheet: Reasons to Explore Smoke-Free Housing. 2009. National Center for Healthy Housing. http://www.nchh.org/Portals/0/Contents/Green%20FactSheet_Smokefree.pdf

Lead

EPA Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program: Lead Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right Brochure. 2010. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovaterightbrochure.pdf>

Mold and Moisture

EPA Mold: A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home. 2010. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.epa.gov/iedmold1/moldguide.html>

Pests

EPA Pests: Controlling Pests. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2011. <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/controlling/index.htm>

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: How to Control Pests Safely. 2008. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. http://www.healthyhomesstraining.org/IPM/IPM_MFH_Ref_4_NYC_Pest_Control_9-11-08.pdf

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

EPA PCB: Polychlorinated Biphenyls. 2011. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/tsd/pcbs/index.htm>

Radon

EPA Radon Guidance: Citizen's Guide to Radon. 2009. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html>

Safety

CDC Fall Prevention Checklist: Check for Safety: A Home Fall Prevention Checklist for Older Adults. 2009. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/HomeandRecreationalSafety/Falls/CheckListForSafety.html>

Volatile Organic Compounds in Household Products and Materials

California Department of Public Health CAL-IAQ Program Standard: Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1. 2010. California Department of Public Health. <http://www.cal-iaq.org/vocs/standard-method-for-voc-emissions-testing-and-evaluation>

California Title 17: California Code of Regulations, Title 17, sections 93120 - 93120.12. 2008. State of California.

CRI: Green Label, Green Label Plus. The Carpet and Rug Institute.

<http://www.carpet-rug.org/commercial-customers/green-building-and-the-environment/green-label-plus/>

EPA IAQ: An Introduction to Indoor Air Quality (IAQ), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). 2011. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html>

Greenguard Children and Schools Certification Program: Greenguard Environmental Institute. <http://www.greenguard.org/en/QuickSearch.aspx>

Green Seal Standard GS-11: GS-11: Green Seal Environmental Standard for Paints and Coatings. 2008. Green Seal, Inc. <http://www.greenseal.org/GreenBusiness/Standards.aspx?vid=ViewStandardDetail&cid=0&sid=6>

MPI GPS-1 and GPS-2: Master Painters Institute (MPI) Green Performance Standards for Paints and Coatings [GPS-1 and GPS-2]. 2008. Master Painters Institute, Inc. <http://www.specifygreen.com/EvrPerf/EnvironmentalPerformance.html>

SCS Standard EC-10.2-2007: Standard EC-10.2-2007, Indoor Air Quality Performance. 2007. Scientific Certification Systems. <http://www.scs-certified.com/docs/SCS-EC10.2-2007.pdf>

Wood Smoke and Solid Fuel Emissions

CSIA: Top-Down Method of Stove Loading. Chimney Safety Institute of America.

<http://www.csia.org/HomeownerResources/ChimneySafetyInfo/HOWTOBuildaTopDownBurn/rabid/229/Default.aspx>

EPA Burn Wise Guides: Burn Wise Guide for Best Burn Practices for Wood Stoves. 2011. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. <http://www.epa.gov/burnwise/bestburn.html>

APPENDIX C

ABBREVIATIONS

AC – Air Conditioning	IAQ – Indoor Air Quality
ACCA – Air Conditioning Contractors of America	IPM – Integrated Pest Management
ACM – Asbestos-Containing Material	LED – Light-Emitting Diode
AFHH – Alliance for Healthy Homes	MDI – Methylene Diphenyl Diisocyanate
AHRI – Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute	MERV – Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value
ANSI – American National Standards Institute	MNCEE – Minnesota Center for Energy and Environment
ASHI – American Society of Home Inspectors	MPI – Master Painters Institute
ASHRAE – American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers	MPI GPS – Master Painters Institute Green Performance Standard
ASPE – American Society of Plumbing Engineers	N/A – Not Applicable
ASTM – American Society for Testing and Materials	NAHB – National Association of Home Builders
BPI – Building Performance Institute	NCHH – National Center for Healthy Housing
CA – California	NEHA – National Environmental Health Association
CAZ – Combustion Appliance Zone	NESCAUM – The Clean Air Association of the Northeast States
CDC – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	NFI – National Fireplace Institute
CEQ – White House Council on Environmental Quality	NFPA – National Fire Protection Association
cfm – Cubic feet per minute	NIOSH – National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
CFR – Code of Federal Regulations	NIST – National Institute of Standards and Technology
CHPS – Collaborative for High Performance Schools	NRSB – National Radon Safety Board
CO – Carbon Monoxide	NVLAP – National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program
CO₂ – Carbon Dioxide	ODS – Oxygen Depletion Sensor
COPD – Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	OSHA – Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CPSC – Consumer Product Safety Commission	PCBs – Polychlorinated Biphenyls
CRI – Carpet and Rug Institute	pCi/L – picocuries per liter
CSA – Canadian Standards Association	PELs – Permissible Exposure Limits
CSIA – Chimney Safety Institute of America	PLM – Polarized Light Microscopy
DOE – U.S. Department of Energy	ppm – Parts per million
DOL – U.S. Department of Labor	RRP – Renovation, Repair and Painting
EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	SCS – Scientific Certification Systems
EPA OSWER – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response	SIDS – Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
ETS – Environmental Tobacco Smoke	SPF – Spray Polyurethane Foam
ft² – Square feet	TEM – Transmission Electron Microscopy
GS – Green Seal	U.S. – United States
HPS – Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome	VOCs – Volatile Organic Compounds
HRV – Heat Recovery Ventilator	W.C. – Water Column
HUD – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	XRF – X-Ray Fluorescence
HVAC – Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning	



Office of Air and Radiation (6609J)
EPA 402/K-11/003 | October 2011

<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/homes/retrofits.html>

