

A Practical Look at Home Weatherization

Home weatherization projects can cost \$5,000 or more but also can reduce the cost of heating your home by 20-30% each year - a real savings given that the average home in Maine uses 1,000 gal. of heating oil a year.

If the cost of doing a complete home weatherization project is too much for your budget, consider doing the work in the following order.

- Get an energy audit -- an auditor will develop a list of energy saving measures for your specific home. (Yellow Pages, www.energymaine.com and asking your contractor are ways to find an auditor)
- Perform air-sealing work. (Sealing around windows and doors (caulk & foam), weather stripping, sealing electrical outlets and switches are examples)
- Start insulating your home from the top, because lots of heat is lost through ceilings and roofs.
- Insulate the interior side of your basement walls, a relatively easy task because basements walls are accessible.
- Install dense-pack cellulose insulation into any empty stud bays above-grade walls; affordable and cost-effective work.
- Install thick rigid foam on the exterior of the sheathing and new high-performance replacement windows.
- Install a new heating system, designed for your up-graded home.

If you need a loan to accomplish your home weatherization project, check out the PACE Loan Program with the Efficiency Maine Trust – this low interest loan program is available to all Brooksville residents.