SolarReviews

# DIY Home Energy Audit Checklist

## Air leaks

Drafts and air leaks can be adding an additional 10% to your electricity bill. By sealing air leaks, you can not only save money, but make the temperature of your home more comfortable, too! To locate air leaks, you can:

- Light a match and blow it out, then hold the smoking match near windows, doors, and other fixtures to see if the smoke blows towards you. If it does, you have an air leak.
- Shut doors or windows on a dollar bill. If you can easily pull the bill out, you should consider caulking or weather stripping.

| Air leak location | Leak detected? | | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Door frames | ☐ Yes | ☐ No | Leaks can be remedied with weather stripping and/or caulking |
| Window frames | ☐ Yes | ☐ No | |
| Along baseboard and/or floor's edge | ☐ Yes | ☐ No | |
| Lighting fixtures (recessed) | ☐ Yes | ☐ No | |
| Light switches / outlets | ☐ Yes | ☐ No | |
| Around fireplace | ☐ Yes | ☐ No | |

## Lighting

Upgrading your lighting is one of the easiest and cheapest fixes to make your home more energy efficient. LED light bulbs are 75% more efficient than incandescent bulbs, last 25 years longer, and release less heat - making them more energy efficient *and* safer.

| Lighting | | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| How many lights are in your home? | ☐ 0 - 15<br>☐ 16 - 30<br>☐ 31 - 45 | Switching from incandescent to LED light bulbs can save the average homeowner $3,000 over 10 years; at minimum, consider replacing your most commonly used light bulbs |
| Primary light bulbs used? | ☐ Incandescent<br>☐ CFL/LED | |
| What lights are used most often? For how long are they typically used? | Location: _____<br>Hours: _____ | |
| Outdoor lights? | ☐ Incandescent<br>☐ CFL/LED | |

## Appliances

Using Energy Star-certified energy-efficient appliances can help reduce your electric bill. Most appliances need to be replaced after 15-20 years, so if you're nearing the end of your appliances' lifespans, consider an Energy Star model for your next purchase. Appliances will have a sticker indicating if they are an Energy Star-rated product.

| Appliances | Age | Energy Star? | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Refrigerator | ☐ 0 - 5 years<br>☐ 6 - 10 years<br>☐ 11+ years | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Most refrigerators need to be replaced after 10 to 15 years |
| Washing machine | ☐ 0 - 5 years<br>☐ 6 - 10 years<br>☐ 11+ years | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Most washing machines need to be replaced after 10 years |
| Clothes dryer (electric) | ☐ 0 - 5 years<br>☐ 6 - 10 years<br>☐ 10+ years | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Most clothes dryers need to be replaced after 10 years |
| Stove/oven (electric) | ☐ 0 - 5 years<br>☐ 6 - 10 years<br>☐ 11 - 15 years<br>☐ 16+ years | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Most stoves/ovens last about 15 years |
| Dishwasher | ☐ 0 - 5 years<br>☐ 6 - 10 years<br>☐ 11+ years | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Most dishwashers last about 10 years |

| Appliances | Age | Energy Star? | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hot water heater | ☐ 0 - 5 years<br>☐ 6 - 10 years<br>☐ 11+ years | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Most hot water heaters should be replaced after around 10 years; tankless water heaters can last for 20+ years |

| Miscellaneous | | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Is your hot water heater insulated? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Insulating your water tank and pipes can keep water hotter and lead to less electricity usage |
| Have you checked your hot water heater for sediment? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Areas with hard water, like Indianapolis and Phoenix, may have mineral sediment buildup in hot water heaters, lowering efficiency; flush your hot water heater using the manufacturer's instructions to remove sediment |
| Have you cleaned refrigerator coils in the last year? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Refrigerator coils should be cleaned annually to allow the fridge to operate more efficiently |

## Ventilation

While you don't want to have major drafts in your home, you do want it to be properly ventilated. Otherwise, you may be more susceptible to encountering mold or gas buildup, and it can also make the temperature of your home uncomfortable.

| Ventilation | | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Is the bathroom exhaust fan clean? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Regularly clean exhaust fan to prevent dust and mildew buildup, and increase ventilation efficiency |
| Is the kitchen exhaust fan clean? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Regularly clean exhaust fan to prevent grease buildup and increase ventilation efficiency |
| Are the dryer vent and exhaust pipe clean? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Regularly clean dryer vent and exhaust pipe of lint and debris; clogged dryer vents are a major fire hazard |

| Ventilation | | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Are there wet spots in your attic? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Check soffit vents on your roof for blockages, ensure they're properly insulated, and look for roof leaks; moisture can cause mold and structural damage |
| Is there moisture in your attic? (i.e. does it feel unusually humid?) | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | |

## Insulation

Not having proper insulation, over time, could lead to you wasting thousands of dollars. There are a few areas that you can check to make sure they have enough insulation to keep your heat and air conditioning in, while keeping the outside air out.

| Insulation | | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Can you see floor joists in attic? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | You may need to add additional insulation if you can see attic floor joists or if the insulation layer is too thin |
| Is insulation between 10" and 14" thick? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | |
| Is the attic door insulated? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Adding rigid insulation is an easy way to insulate attic doors if they are not already |
| Is the basement ceiling insulated? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Some basement ceilings are not insulated, which can make it harder to heat your home |

## Heating and cooling system

Heating and cooling your home can account for nearly half of your electric bill - so you want to make sure your HVAC system is working efficiently! It's best to get your heating and cooling systems inspected by a professional, but there are a few obvious signs you can look out for.

| Heating and cooling system | | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Have you changed the air filters in the last 3 months? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Air filters typically should be changed every 3 months, but may vary depending on the manufacturer |
| Have you had your HVAC system inspected/tuned up this year? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | HVAC systems should ideally be inspected by a professional at least every year; this typically will cost $100 or less |
| Are there visible holes, leaks, or tears in the HVAC duct system? | ☐ Yes<br>☐ No | Holes in HVAC ductwork can be covered using duct tape |
| How old is your HVAC system? | ☐ 0 - 5 years<br>☐ 6 - 10 years<br>☐ 11 - 20 years | Most HVAC systems last 15 to 20 years |