

# Take the home energy quiz

Here are eight great ways to save energy at home

Saving energy improves the environment and reduces energy bills. Use this home energy quiz to find ways that your home could be more energy efficient. Walk through your home and circle the descriptions in this quiz that apply. Ignore any sections that don't apply to your home. Then, calculate your home's energy efficiency rating.

## 1. Attic insulation.

Test: Use a ruler to measure how much insulation you have in the attic area. If you have less than 12 inches, you probably need more.

- 6 inches or less (2 pts.)
- 7-11 inches (4 pts.)
- 12 inches or more (6 pts.)

Tip: Improving your home's insulation is one of the most effective and cost-effective ways to reduce energy usage.

## 2. Furnace filters.

Test: How often was your furnace filter cleaned or changed in the past year?

- Not at all (2 pts.)
- 1-3 times (4 pts.)
- 4 or more times (6 pts.)

Tip: Make sure your furnace is operating at maximum efficiency by cleaning or replacing your filters frequently.

Be sure to follow instructions in your owner's manual.

## 3. Lighting.

Test: Count the number of compact fluorescent light bulbs you have in high-use areas such as hallways, living rooms and kitchens.

- No compact fluorescents (2 pts.)
- 1-4 compact fluorescents (4 pts.)
- 5 or more compact fluorescents (6 pts.)

## 4 Refrigerator.

Test: Close the door over a dollar bill so it's half in and half out of the refrigerator.

- Easy to pull out (2 pts.)
- Hard to pull out (4 pts.)
- Doesn't pull out (6 pts.)

## 5. Thermostat.

Test: Is the temperature setting on your thermostat above or below the following levels?

Winter

- 74 degrees or higher (2 pts.)
- 71-73 degrees (4 pts.)
- 70 degrees or lower (6 pts.)

Summer

- 74 degrees or lower (2 pts.)
- 75-77 degrees (4 pts.)
- 78 degrees (6 pts.)

Tip: A programmable thermostat can help you reduce your heating and cooling bills by as much as 10 percent a year.

## 6. Water heater.

Test: Locate the EnergyGuide label to determine your water heater's energy efficiency rating. How much energy does it use compared to similar models?

- Uses the most energy (2 pts.)
- Uses an average amount of energy (4 pts.)
- Uses the least energy (6 pts.)

Tip: If you can't locate the EnergyGuide label, ask an adult to touch the water heater tank. If the tank is warm to the touch, it probably uses the maximum amount of energy.

## 7. Weather stripping.

Test: Open your front or back door and check the condition of the weather stripping between the door and the door frame.

- None (2 pts.)
- Worn out (4 pts.)
- Good condition (6 pts.)

Tip: Sealing air leaks in your home can reduce energy usage of 10 percent or more.

## 8. Windows.

Test: How many layers of glass do your windows consist of? Is there a special label on the glass? Do you also have storm windows?

- Single-pane with no storm windows (2 pts.)
- Single-pane with storm windows or double-pane windows (4 pts.)
- Double-pane, either gas-filled or with reflective coating (6 pts.)

Tip: During colder months, cover single-pane windows, including the entire frame, with a clear plastic film on the inside to prevent cold air from entering your home.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY RATING

To calculate your home's energy efficiency rating:

1. Add up your total points.
2. Divide your total points by the number of questions you answered.

Example: If your points totaled 35 and you answered seven questions, your home's energy efficiency rating is 5.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY RATING SCALE

**6.0 – 5.1 \*\*\*\*\***  
Very energy efficient

**5.0 – 4.5 \*\*\*\***  
Energy efficient

**4.4 – 3.8 \*\*\***  
Getting close

**3.7 – 3.0 \*\***  
Needs a few improvements

**2.9 – 2.0 \***  
Needs major improvements

**My home's energy efficiency rating is \_\_\_\_\_.**

