

The Cub



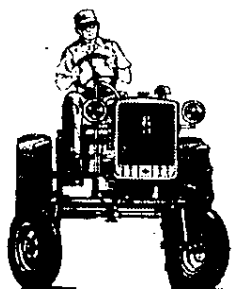
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Insulate NOW for lower fuel bills next winter

Adequate home insulation is an important start on saving energy. Although the roughest winter of recent history is past, the Better Business Bureau reminds citizens that the energy crisis is far from over. Conservation measures such as insulation are important year-around.

Insulation not only helps winter heating efficiency, it can cut summer's cooling costs.

Money spent this spring can be recovered within a few years as monthly fuel bills are reduced. In colder or warmer climates, the cost of insulation can be covered by fuel savings in one year.

It has been estimated that at least one-third of American homes have no insulation at all. Their owners waste as much as 30 per cent of fuel they use because their furnaces and air conditioners are working overtime needlessly.

Even more homes have inadequate insulation. At least six inches of insulating material in the attic—with no other conservation measures—can cut home heating and cooling costs considerably. The cost for an average home—1,600 square feet—

would be less than \$200, depending on the type of material and the size, geographic location and basic construction of the house.

Mineral wool, glass fiber or cellulose insulation installed in an attic will cut fuel costs dramatically. It is not necessary to hire a professional for such a job. However, if you do it yourself, be sure to wear protective clothing, including gloves and mask.

Insulation materials are measured in terms of their "R" rating, which is resistance to heat. The most important thing to remember about the "R" rating is that the higher it is, the more effective the material. The standard minimum "R" rating is R19 for ceilings, R11 for walls and R13 for floors.

Insulating needs vary from house to house and according to climate. Specific information on the type of insulation needed for an older or newer home in your area and on how long it will take to get a return on the investment involved in insulating your home may be obtained from local insulating contractors, building supply dealers or utility companies. Always

check with the Better Business Bureau before deciding on a contractor to install insulation.

Other insulating measures can be taken around the home to make savings even greater. In addition to the attic, homeowners also may want to insulate walls. This is more difficult, however, especially in an older home. It is generally work for a professional.

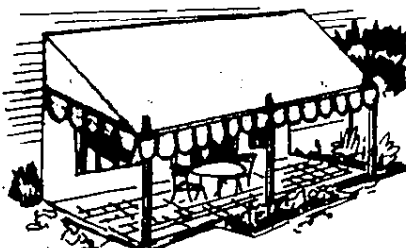
Storm windows and doors represent the next highest energy savings energy savings around the house. The most convenient are the combination door-and-screen type because they do not have to be removed in milder weather.

Some insulating measures are relatively inexpensive. Instead of storm windows, a really budget-minded homeowner may tape sheets of clear plastic to window frames. This gives almost as much insulation for a fraction of the cost. Caulking and weatherstripping around windows and doors are other steps. A 1/4-inch gap at the base of a 3-foot wide door equals energy loss from a 9-square inch hole.

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