

DIY HOME ENERGY AUDIT TIPS



DID YOU KNOW...

DIY Energy Audit Kits may be available to borrow from a local library.

Making a home energy efficient doesn't have to be complicated or expensive and can save money on utility bills

A home energy audit can identify hidden leaks, reduce energy waste, and uncover safety hazards.

Identify and seal air leaks

Drafts let heat escape, making your heating or cooling systems work harder. Rooms that feel warmer or cooler than others at the same thermostat setting may have poor insulation that would benefit from an upgrade.

Inside

Feel around doors, windows, baseboards, wall-ceiling joints, light fixtures, and electrical outlets for hot or cold spots. Examine for any cracks or gaps that could let air in or out.

Outside

Inspect around pipes, cables, and vents. Look for gaps or damage that lets air to escape.

Tip: Sealing drafts with caulking or weather stripping could save on heating and cooling costs.

Detect and fix water leaks

Even small leaks can increase your water bill or cause costly damage, such as mold. Make sure to compare water bills over time; unexpected increases may indicate hidden leaks.

Faucets and toilets

Cover a faucet with a water balloon overnight—collected water indicates a leak. Add a few drops of food coloring to the toilet tank; colour in the bowl within 10 minutes signals a leak.

Inside

Look for wet spots, mold, or stains on walls, floors, and ceilings.

Outside

Inspect hoses, outdoor faucets, and sprinklers for drips.

Tip: Fix small leaks with help from your local hardware store. Call a plumber for persistent or serious leaks. Renters should notify the landlord.

Review and maintain appliances

Remember to schedule annual tune ups for major appliances like Air Conditioners. Well-maintained appliances run more efficiently, last longer, and can reduce energy consumption.

Keep appliance vents, coils, and filters clean to improve efficiency, prevent overheating, and extend their lifespan.

Listen for unusual noises, inconsistent heating, unresponsive thermostats, and pilot light issues.

Watch out for “energy vampires”: devices that draw power even when turned off.

Tip: Use smart power strips or unplug devices to reduce phantom energy use. If replacing an appliance, look for ENERGY STAR ratings and EnerGuide information to help choose the most efficient products.

Audit your lighting

Well-maintained appliances run more efficiently, last longer, and can reduce energy consumption.

Check for unused or rarely used lights and consider installing timers or motion sensors to cut energy waste.

Schedule annual tune ups for major appliances like Air Conditioners.

Use timers, photocells, and dimmers to save electricity.

Tip: On average LED lightbulbs use less energy than old incandescent bulbs.

