

# Home Energy Audit Checklist

## INSTRUCTIONS

### **Key Steps for Home Energy Audits**

A home energy audit can help housing managers and occupants identify opportunities to reduce the energy consumption in homes, and identify areas that are in need of repair. Improving housing performance through energy efficient upgrades can save money, improve comfort and ventilation and reduce environmental impacts.

Using a checklist like the one in Figure 10 below can help ensure all areas of the home are evaluated. This self-directed audit helps occupants identify the “low hanging fruit”, or easily fixes that will improve energy efficiency.

### **How to get started:**

1. Print out a copy of this document and get a clipboard and pencil.
2. Set aside a few uninterrupted hours to complete the audit.
3. Assemble your tools and appropriate clothing.

### **Tools and materials you might need:**

1. Tape measure or ruler
2. Eye protection (e.g. safety glasses), gloves, long sleeves, pants and dust mask
3. Flashlight
4. Ladder (for access to the attic, if applicable)
5. Incense or candle to detect air leaks
6. Painter’s tape for marking leaks

### **Checking for air leaks:**

While checking for air leaks in the home, close all windows, doors and fireplace flues. Then turn off all combustion appliances like an oil furnace. Turn on all exhaust fans (like the kitchen range hood and bathroom fans) and the dryer on a no heat setting. Doing these things creates negative pressure in your home, meaning that the air from outside the home will want to pass through any cracks. Holding a burning piece of incense close to the edges of windows, doors, vents, sockets, and holes where pipes penetrate walls will help you identify where air is passing through cracks.



For each area under “Air Sealing” in the checklist, visually inspect each item for cracked caulking or weather stripping, broken pieces like latches or cracked windowpanes. Look around the edges of plumbing or wires that pass through exterior walls.

- Can you feel any air flow around these areas? You can sometimes feel the air flow on your hand but a more effective method is to use the incense or candle. Mark any areas with your tape.
- In the attic, basement and crawlspaces, you are looking for any gaps, or light from outside or the heated areas of the home. Check these areas with incense. Common areas for leaks are where pipes or wires enter or exit the area and in basements, check around the edges where the wall meets the foundation. Mark any leaks with your tape and make a note on your checklist.

### Checking insulation & heating

Checking the insulation in walls, floors and ceilings requires a bit of investigation. For walls, the easiest way to see if there is insulation is to look into the wall cavity behind an outlet or switch cover (make sure you look at an outside wall). Remove the electrical cover plates and look behind, using a flashlight.



In the attic, if there is an access door you will be able to determine the depth of the insulation using a ruler or tape measure.

For your home’s hot water and heating equipment, do a visual inspection. You are looking for obvious signs of recent maintenance, e.g. looking on the side of the equipment for a date of last inspection. If you have a forced air furnace, check the air filter. Also look for air leaks around the vents. Use tape to mark leaks and make a note of it on your checklist.

### Water fixtures

With water fixtures such as the toilet, shower and faucets, you are looking to see if your home has faucet aerators and low flow showerheads and toilets. Consider installing new aerators on all faucets. Showerheads may have the flow rate (litres per minute, LPM, or gallons per minute, GPM) on the fixture. Make notes on the checklist of any issues you identify.

Fixture	Litres per Minute (LPM)	Gallons per Minute (GPM)
Kitchen Faucets	8.3	2.2
Bathroom Faucets	4	1
Showerheads	6	1.5
Toilets	< 6 litres per flush	< 1.5 litres per flush



# Housing Audit Form

## Penetrations

*Identify and seal penetrations to exterior and unheated spaces (e.g. attic, crawlspace)*

Kitchen sink	Y	N	N/A	Wires/cables	Y	N	N/A
Kitchen exhaust	Y	N	N/A	Gas/oil lines	Y	N	N/A
Bathroom sink	Y	N	N/A	Chimney flue	Y	N	N/A
Bathroom exhaust	Y	N	N/A	Heating ducts/grilles	Y	N	N/A
Laundry/dryer/sink	Y	N	N/A				

NOTES & COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

## Attic

Hatch:	Weatherstripped?	Y	N	N/A	Repaired/replaced?	Y	N	N/A		
	Insulated?	Y	N	N/A	Added insulation?	Y	N	N/A		
Insulation:	Type:	Batt	Loose	None	Condition:	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A	Thickness: _____
	Vermiculite?	Y	N							
Venting:	Good	Poor	None							
Penetrations sealed?	Y	N	N/A							

NOTES & COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

## Crawlspace

If crawlspace exists:	Vented	Unvented	N/A		If crawlspace is heated:	Same as living space	Supplemental electric heat	N/A - not applicable	
Floor:	Concrete	Poly	Dirt	Other	_____				
Insulation:	Floor:	Good	Fair	Poor	None				
	Perimeter:	Good	Fair	Poor	None				

NOTES & COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

## Basement

Heated?	Y	N	N/A						
Bsmt door:	Weatherstripped?	Y	N	N/A	Repaired/replaced?	Y	N	N/A	
Insulation:	Above grade walls?	Y	N	N/A	Condition?	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
	Foundation walls?	Y	N	N/A	Condition?	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
Penetrations sealed?	Y	N	N/A						

NOTES & COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

# Housing Audit Form

## Heating System

<b>Primary system type</b>	Baseboards	Forced air furnace	Heat pump	Hydronic heating	Wood Stove	Other	Age: _____	Condition: Good Fair Poor N/A
Primary fuel type:	Oil	Propane	Natural Gas	Electric	Wood			
Thermostat:	Programmable	Non-programmable			Location: Wall	On-unit	Remote	Accessible: Y N
Filter:	Clean	Dirty	N/A		Any duct leaks? Y N N/A	Sealed/repaired? Y N	N/A	

<b>Secondary system type</b>	Baseboards	Forced air furnace	Heat pump	Hydronic heating	Wood Stove	Other	Age: _____	Condition: Good Fair Poor N/A
Secondary fuel type:	Oil	Propane	Natural Gas	Electric	Wood			
Thermostat:	Programmable	Non-programmable			Location: Wall	On-unit	Remote	Accessible: Y N
Filter:	Clean	Dirty	N/A		Any duct leaks? Y N N/A	Sealed/repaired? Y N	N/A	

Heating system fuel tank? Y N N/A      Age of tank: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES & COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

## Hot Water Tank

Type:	Tank	Tankless	Solar hot water	Fuel: Diesel/Heating oil	Electric	Propane	Other	Age: _____	Condition: _____
Pipe insulation:	Hot: Y	N		Cold: Y	N		Added/repaired? Y	N	Tank Blanket? Y N N/A
Setpoint:	_____			Adjusted? Y	N				

NOTES & COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

## Water Fixtures

Kitchen sink	Aerator?	Y	N	Replaced?	Y	N	Qty: _____
Bathroom sinks	Aerator?	Y	N	Replaced?	Y	N	Qty: _____
Showerheads	Low-flow?	Y	N	Replaced?	Y	N	Qty: _____

NOTES & COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Housing Audit Form**

**Lighting**

Quantity before any replacement

Incandescent	Qty: _____	Total Qty after replacement _____
CFL	Qty: _____	Total Qty after replacement _____
Linear FL	Qty: _____	Total Qty after replacement _____
LED	Qty: _____	Total Qty after replacement _____

Type: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES & COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

**Appliances**

**Age of appliances**

Refrigerator 1	10+ years	5-10 Years	Less than 5 years	N/A	EnergyStar?	Y	N	Fuel:	Elec	Propane
Refrigerator 2	10+ years	5-10 Years	Less than 5 years	N/A	EnergyStar?	Y	N	Fuel:	Elec	Propane
Freezer 1	10+ years	5-10 Years	Less than 5 years	N/A	EnergyStar?	Y	N			
Freezer 2	10+ years	5-10 Years	Less than 5 years	N/A	EnergyStar?	Y	N			
Stove	10+ years	5-10 Years	Less than 5 years	N/A	EnergyStar?	Y	N	Fuel:	Elec	Propane
Dishwasher	10+ years	5-10 Years	Less than 5 years	N/A	EnergyStar?	Y	N			
Clothes washer	10+ years	5-10 Years	Less than 5 years	N/A	EnergyStar?	Y	N			
Clothes dryer	10+ years	5-10 Years	Less than 5 years	N/A	EnergyStar?	Y	N	Fuel:	Elec	Propane

NOTES & COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

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