

Energy Efficiency Tips

When you hire a contractor to perform energy conservation work on your home, make sure you hire a contractor licensed by the Contractors State License Board. Any job that costs \$500 or more (labor and materials) requires the services of a licensed contractor.

You can do more to protect yourself before hiring a contractor than the Contractors State License Board can do to help after you've been harmed. Call or check our Web site for valuable information on selecting a contractor.

Here are some energy conservation tips for every homeowner:

- Minimize energy use during peak hours of 5-9 a.m. and 4-7 p.m.;
- Set your thermostat to 78° when you are home and 85° or off when you are away;
- Set your refrigerator's temperature as high as 38°. Remove dust from the coils and check door seals;
- Wash full loads of laundry and lower the temperature setting. Insulate water heaters and lower the temperature to 120°;



- Turn off lights, computers, appliances, and equipment when not in use;
- Use "Energy Star" appliances.

Here are some common examples of energy efficient upgrades:

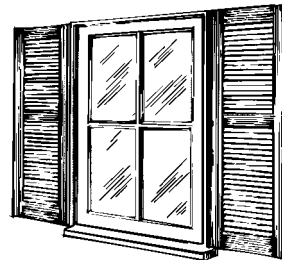
■ Insulation

Install insulation in walls, attics, floors, and around heating ducts. Current standards are R-30 in attics, R-13 in walls, R-19 in floors and R-6 around ducts. If your home is 15 years old or older, the insulation may have settled.

Generally, insulation contractors must be specifically licensed for this kind of work.

■ Windows

Install double-paned windows. The air pocket between the panes serves as a thermal insulator. Windows should have a low emissivity (or low e) glazing.



Generally, glazing, metal products, or general building contractors must be specifically licensed for this kind of work.

■ Weather-Stripping & Caulking

Weather-stripping and caulking around doors, windows, pipes, electric outlets, and ducts can keep your home comfortably insulated.



Generally, weatherization & energy conservation contractors must be specifically licensed to do this kind of work.

■ Air-Conditioning

Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer, increasing energy use. Replace filters monthly for maximum benefit.

Generally, heating, ventilation & air-conditioning contractors must be specifically licensed to repair air-conditioning and heating systems.

Other contractors may also be licensed to perform some of this work. Check with the Contractors State License Board to make sure your contractor is legally qualified to handle your specific job requirements.

Save energy but do it wisely by hiring qualified licensed contractors.

*Call the Contractors State License Board toll-free at **1-800-321-CSLB***

*or log onto the Internet at **www.cslb.ca.gov**.*



Resources

The following organizations have energy tips and information for consumers:

California Department of Consumer Affairs

www.dca.ca.gov
(800) 952-5210

Contractors State License Board

www.cslb.ca.gov
(800) 321-CSLB

The California Energy Commission

www.energy.ca.gov/commission/index.html
(800) 555-7794

SMUD

www.smud.com
(888) 742-SMUD

PG&E

www.pge.com
(800) 933-9555 (PG&E's Smarter Energy Line)

Southern California Edison

www.sce.com/002_save_energy
(800) 655-4555 (general services number)

Southern California Gas

www.socalgas.com
(800) 427-2200 (residential customers)
(800) 427-2000 (commercial & industrial customers)

CSLB can tell you if your contractor is licensed, in good standing, and in the proper classification to fit your needs.

For free publications and information about licensed contractors, call the Board's toll-free automated information number:

1-800-321-CSLB (2752)

or log onto the Internet at:

www.cslb.ca.gov

P.O. Box 26000

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Energy Tips

A consumer's guide to hiring licensed energy conservation contractors