

Tips for Selecting a Weatherization Contractor

For residents hiring a contractor on their own, not participating in the NHSaves program

Important Notes

- You are hiring a contractor who will BOTH complete your energy audit, AND (if you choose to move forward) complete/coordinate your weatherization project.
- All Weatherize Hanover contractors are certified by the national Building Performance Institute and subject to quality assurance checks by NHSaves or Efficiency Vermont.
- All Weatherize Hanover contractors commonly work in Hanover and our surrounding communities. Because there are relatively few weatherization contractors statewide, it is common for companies to travel long distances. The right contractor for you may or may not be the closest contractor.
- Don't judge a company by its website. The best way to determine whether a company is a good fit for you is to call. Or attend a contractor meet-and-greet event.

If You Are Participating in the NHSaves Program

When your rebate application is approved, **NHSaves will assign you a qualified contractor** who regularly serves your community and has availability to serve you in a timely manner.

When a contractor completes a weatherization job through the NHSaves program, they must adhere to pricing and quality expectations set by NHSaves, and are subject to regular quality assurance checks.

You may, if you wish, request a specific contractor when submitting their NHSaves application. To do this, select your preferred contractor from the "Auditors" drop down list next to the signature field.

Homework Before You Get Started

Draft a brief summary of your home and weatherization priorities to share when you speak with prospective contractors. Include:

- Age, square footage, and style (e.g. cape, ranch, farmhouse)
- Brief description of insulation (e.g. type, age, condition, amount, if known)
- Your top concerns/priorities (e.g. reducing drafts, addressing ice dams, saving money, etc.)

Questions to Ask

1. **Who does the energy audit?** If possible, try to speak with the person who does the energy audits.
2. **What else does your company specialize in, besides weatherization?** Some companies are all weatherization all the time. Others are general contractors and home builders who also do energy audits and weatherization.
3. **Who does the work? Do you have your own crews?** Some companies have all their own crews and equipment. Other companies have energy auditors on staff and manage your project like a general contractor, hiring the right sub-contractors to meet your needs.
4. **How far out are you scheduling energy audits right now?**
5. **How far out are your scheduling jobs right now?**

6. **How much do you charge for an energy audit?** Prices vary, and are typically several hundred dollars. Some contractors credit the audit fee toward your project if you choose to move ahead. Others choose not to charge for an audit at all if they can tell you are serious about weatherization. No matter what the price, an energy audit is worthwhile and is ALWAYS the first step in any weatherization project.

7. **What do you include in your audit reports? What DON'T you include in your audit reports? Do you have a sample report I can look at?** In New Hampshire, most contractors provide reports that mimic the standard report required by NHSaves for rebate program participants. The level of detail in the descriptions within the report may vary from company to company. Some are short and to the point, others more descriptive.

8. **Briefly describe your home and priorities, then ask whether they think they would be a good fit for your needs.**

9. **How do you think your prices line up with your competitors** (with respect to work scope)?

10. **What makes you unique among your competitors?**