

What to Expect During your Energy Audit

Length: Typically 3-4 hours

Common Elements of an Energy Audit:

Your contractor will base their recommendations on a combination of diagnostic testing, visual inspection, and their own professional experience. Weatherization contractors are able to provide good recommendations even if they are unable to complete a blower door test or use infrared imaging during the home energy audit.



1. Combustion testing checks whether your heating system and other combustion appliances are adequately vented for your safety.
2. A blower door test de-pressurizes your home to measure/identify air leakage.
 - a. Will NOT be completed if depressurization would disturb potentially hazardous material (e.g. vermiculite, mold), or create back-drafting in a warm woodstove.
3. Inspection of all accessible insulation (e.g. attic, basement, knee walls, etc.)
4. Infrared camera (used sometimes, but not always, to further assess air leakage and insulation levels)
 - a. Thermal imaging works best when there is a significant temperature difference between indoors and outdoors.
5. Energy audit report (completed and sent to you after the audit; contains detailed recommendations)

Pre-Audit Checklist for Homeowners:

- Plan to be present and follow your contractor around during the audit. This can be as valuable as reading the written energy audit report.
- Call your contractor the day before your audit to confirm your date/time.
- Ensure there is a clear path to access your attic and any knee walls or crawl spaces.
- Do not light a fire in your woodstove on the day of your energy audit – your stove must be completely cold, with no embers whatsoever, in order to safely complete a blower door test.
- Make sure your furnace is operational (can be turned on; is not awaiting repairs) – this is necessary for the combustion testing portion of your audit.
- Prepare a summary of the following (written and/or verbal), even if your contractor doesn't ask for it:
 - How much fuel do you use each year?
 - Is your thermostat programmed? What temperatures do you set your thermostat to?
 - Where in your house do you notice cold floors, condensation, drafts
 - Where do ice dams and/or icicles occur?
 - Have you noticed any snow melt patterns on your roof? Spots that melt sooner than others?
 - What are your weatherization priorities? Cost savings? Comfort? Reduced ice dams?
 - Are you planning any other home renovations in the next year or so?
 - Does your home have vermiculite, radon issues, knob and tube wiring, or mold?
- Prepare a list of any specific questions you have for your contractor.

After Your Audit:

- Ask when you can expect to receive an audit report. Contact your contractor if you have not received a report by the promised day.
- You are under no obligation to move forward with any of your contractor's recommendations.