

Energy Use in Manufactured Homes

Owners of manufactured homes face unique challenges in saving energy. Homes manufactured before *1994 Housing and Urban Development required standards* usually have higher energy cost when compared to same-sized site-built homes. With proper site installation, today's ENERGY STAR® qualified manufactured homes demonstrate a high level of energy efficiency.

Your electric cooperative offers these tips and projects for lowering monthly energy use. Efforts that target heating and cooling offer the most opportunity for savings.

Energy Tips

- Clean or replace the air filter in your heating and cooling system at least once per month.
- Make sure that the dryer vent discharges air to the outside and not into the crawl space or attic.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with ENERGY STAR® LEDs according to package directions.
- Plant evergreen trees far enough from the home's south side, to shield from the wind without shading the winter sun from the home.
- Control outdoor lighting with photocells, timers, or motion detectors.
- Hire a professional to perform annual maintenance on central heating and cooling systems.

Information Sources

Your Mobile Home: Energy and Repair Guide for Manufactured Housing by John Krigger of Saturn Resource Management, Helena, MT Phone: 800-735-0577; Select SHOP, then BOOKSTORE at srmi.biz/

Manufactured Homes Saving Money by Saving Energy; huduser.org/publications/pdf/SaveEnergy_SaveMoney.pdf

Information regarding new ENERGY STAR® manufactured homes: energystar.gov/ia/partners/downloads/consumer_brochure_manuf.pdf

Energy Assistance

Weatherization Assistance (WAP) funds provide home energy efficiency improvements for low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals.

Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds provide financial assistance to help pay the cost of home energy bills and related services.

The Mississippi Department of Human Services Community Services Division provides these programs. For more information visit: mdhs.ms.gov/community-services/.

Your energy checklist for a Manufactured Home



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Energy Checklist For Manufactured Homes

Water Heating

- Replace an old, worn-out water heater with a new ENERGY STAR® qualified model.
- Insulate hot water pipes from the tank.
- Lower the temperature on your water heater.
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Check for leaks in water pipes.

Windows and Doors

- Install low-cost interior storm window kits on leaky windows. (Avoid non-rigid plastic film for child safety.)
- Repair or replace broken windows and doors.
- Install weatherstrip and caulk around windows and doors.

Window Shading

Shading windows from summer sunlight can save cooling dollars. In winter, remove shading on south-facing windows to enjoy needed warmth. Summer shading options include:

- Exterior awnings.
- Sun screens.
- Interior shades.
- Trees and shrubs.

ENERGY STAR® Roof Coatings

Cool roof coatings reflect much of the sun's heat. These coatings also seal roof leaks. Be sure to purchase a qualified coating that is specified for application on the existing roof material.

Air Leakage Control

Places to seal with caulk, foam, mastic, weatherstripping and other materials:

- Floor opening around the bathtub piping or other piping openings.
- Unintended openings from closets or cabinets into walls, attics, or crawl spaces.
- Openings around vent pipes and exhaust fans.
- Torn "belly" (bottom) fabric or board.
- "Marriage Line" (the continuous joint between two sections of a double-wide home).
- Wall outlet cover plates (special seals).

Signs of Duct Leakage

- One room that is uncomfortable.
- Central system runs continuously.
- Winter warmth inside the "belly" (under the home).
- Cool air inside the attic (attic ducts) during summer.

Causes of Duct Leakage

- Animals seeking warmth in winter.
- Disconnection of ducts during transit.
- Improper home set-up or installation.

Duct Sealing and Duct Insulation

If you complete only one energy-saving project this year, consider sealing duct joints with mastic. Leakage through duct joints and connections is the most common cause of high energy use in manufactured homes. Disconnection of ducts from the ducting "boxes" happens frequently. Leaks in the return air chamber (indoor fan box near the filter) can pull outside air indoors. This dirty air leakage comes from underneath the home or the attic.

Insulation

- Consult an insulation contractor about adding blown insulation to an older home by working through holes cut in the "belly" board or rim joist. Seal the holes with a durable patch.
- Ask about adding ceiling insulation to an older home by blowing through cut holes in the ceiling or raised roof edge.

Who should tackle the job of duct sealing?

A qualified heating/cooling contractor may be the best bet, especially for sealing ducts connected to gas systems. Attic duct systems may be inaccessible except at supply air registers and at the unit. Products used during the duct sealing process include non-toxic fibrous mastic, mastic tape, and replacement insulation for the exterior of ducts. Outdoor ducting entering the home from package units should be protected from moisture as well as sealed and heavily insulated. Look for ENERGY STAR® qualified products. See energystar.gov.

