Kosco Points To Air Sealing As Solution To Reduce Costs.

Kosco, the area's premium home heating and comfort company is assisting homeowners seeking to reduce their heating costs for this coming winter. "The cost cutting information we are providing homeowners is proving invaluable", stated Mike Berardi, manager of the Rhinebeck office. " For those who act on our tips and advice, well they are going to see a cost reduction in their heating fuel bill "

Kosco explains that you can reduce your home's heating and cooling costs through proper air sealing techniques. These techniques will also make your home more comfortable. Any air sealing efforts will complement your insulation efforts, and vice versa.

Air leakage, or infiltration, occurs when outside air enters a house uncontrollably through cracks and openings. Properly air sealing such cracks and openings in your home can significantly reduce heating and cooling costs, improve building durability, and create a healthier indoor environment.

It is unwise to rely on air leakage for ventilation because it can't be controlled. During cold or windy weather, too much air may enter the house. When it's warmer and less windy, not enough air may enter. Air infiltration also can contribute to problems with moisture control. Moldy and dusty air can enter a leaky house through such areas as attics or foundations. This air in the house could cause health problems.

The recommended strategy in both new and old homes is to reduce air leakage as much as possible and to provide controlled ventilation as needed.

Detecting Air Leaks

You may already know where some air leakage occurs in your home, such as an under-the-door draft, but you'll need to find the less obvious gaps to properly air seal your home.

For a thorough and accurate measurement of air leakage in your home, hire a qualified technician to conduct an energy audit, particularly a blower door test. A blower door test, which depressurizes a home, can reveal the location of many leaks. A complete energy audit will also help determine areas in your home that need more insulation.

Without a blower door test, there are ways to find some air leaks yourself. First, look at areas where different materials meet, such as between brick and wood siding, between foundation and walls, and between the chimney and siding. Also

inspect around the following areas for any cracks and gaps that could cause air leaks:

Door and window frames, Mail chutes, Electrical outlets and gas service entrances, Cable TV and phone lines, Outdoor water faucets, Where dryer vents pass through walls
Bricks, siding, stucco, and foundation, Air conditioners, Vents and fans.

You can also try these steps to depressurize your home to help detect leaks:
Turn off your furnace on a cool, very windy day. Shut all windows and doors.
Turn on all exhaust fans that blow air outside, such as bathroom fans or stove vents.
Light an incense stick and pass it around the edges of common leak sites. Wherever the smoke is sucked out of or blown into the room, there's a draft. If you don't want to turn off your furnace, you can just turn on all your exhaust fans to depressurize your home.

Other air-leak detection methods include the following:

Shining flashlight at night over all potential gaps while a partner observes the house from outside. Large cracks will show up as rays of light. Not a good way to detect small cracks. Shutting a door or window on a piece of paper. If you can pull the paper out without tearing it, you're losing energy.

Sealing even small air leaks can add up and reduce energy consumption, saving a homeowner over $250 annually. Sealing the larger leaks found in many older homes are likely to add up to really big savings. Explained Berardi of Kosco.

For a Free Home Energy Evaluation contact Kosco at 845-331-0770