Five Steps to Ensure Your Home Has Good Insulation

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If you live in a state like Michigan, one thing your home needs is good insulation. Poor insulation results to an uncomfortable home temperature that requires you to turn-up your air conditioning unit during the warm months, or turn up your heater during winter. These result to higher energy consumption and electricity bill.

Michigan has an Upper and Lower Peninsula. The northern part of the Lower Peninsula and the entire Upper experience more severe climate. With itâ€™s very warm and humid summers, and cold and snowy winters, cities like Detroit or Grand Rapids make insulation their top priority. Here are five steps on how to install proper insulation.

Check where to insulate

It is better to insulate most of your home especially in areas where heat travels most. Some areas need different types of insulation according to their size, design and function. A bedroom will need a different insulation from a kitchen. You can insulate your home's air ducts with mastic or metal tape or work on your attic using loose-fill insulation.

Assess your current insulation

After you decide which areas need insulation, evaluate your current one. If you plan to do it yourself, a thermal leak detector can locate hot spots around recessed lights, electrical outlets, and even along your floor molding. If you want a truly comprehensive check, hire a specialist. The latter costs extra but can give more details on your insulation requirements or find those you overlooked on your first scan.

Determine your R-values

You're probably wondering what the R-value stands for in your current insulation. R-value is the numerical measure of an insulation's resistance to heat flow: the higher the value, the greater the insulating effectiveness. You can get an expert on insulation Grand Rapids residents call on to help you calculate this. After you determine your R-value, you can decide how much insulation you need, which to choose, and where to place it.

Choose the right one

After youâ€™ve completed the previous steps, then you are ready to choose the most appropriate insulation for your home. There are different kinds of insulation Michigan homeowners use including natural fiber batts and concrete blocks. You can use a chart from the Department of Energy web site to help you find the most suitable one for your home.

The insulation Michigan homes need is a simple home improvement job you can do by yourself. But if you want a more thorough job, it is better to hire a professional and licensed contractor. Read more about insulation from energystar.gov, doityourself.com and txu.com.

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