

Home Energy Assessment Overview B-Roll

Scene-by-Scene Description

Get the facts behind the footage available on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) B-Roll Web site at eere.energy.gov/news/b_roll.cfm.

Video Title: Home Energy Assessment B-Roll

Video Only/No Audio

Location: Virginia

Shoot Date: November 2009

Total Running Time: 5:01

Scene 1: 00:06: A home energy contractor sets up a “blower door” and conducts a home pressure test. A powerful fan mounted into the frame of an exterior door pulls air out of the house, lowering the air pressure inside, which forces the higher outside air pressure to flow through all unsealed cracks and openings. The auditor uses pressure and airflow gauges to measure how airtight the structure is and to identify possible leaks.

Scene 2: 01:31: As part of combustion safety testing of a gas-fired furnace, the home energy contractor inserts the detection probe of a combustion analyzer in the furnace flue to determine how efficiently fuel is being burned. The same test is performed on other combustion appliances, such as gas water heaters. Systems are also checked for gas leaks (using a specialized leak detector), proper firing and operation, and harmful gas emissions such as carbon monoxide.

Scene 3: 02:41: A home energy technician uses an infrared video camera to determine whether and where insulation is needed, whether existing insulation was installed correctly, and where leaks in the structure may exist.

Scene 4: 03:53: An energy contractor visually inspects the attic space, checking ductwork and insulation. The contractor looks for holes and spaces between insulation and ceiling or walls, or where electrical wiring enters the space, and checks the insulation type and rating. The contractor ends his inspection in the basement, where he takes note of insulation and potential leaks, then inspects the water heater and furnace for age, efficiency rating, and adequate insulation.

Learn More about Home Weatherization

The first step to a comprehensive home energy upgrade is to complete a home energy audit or assessment. A specially trained and equipped home energy contractor can perform a thorough, professional assessment, but there are many “do-it-yourself” tests that a homeowner can complete on his or her own. A professional assessment includes inspecting the home inside and out, from top to bottom, checking for leaks, inspecting space and water heating devices, locating any insulation deficiencies, evaluating lighting, and recommending a complete array of steps to take in order to make the home function efficiently—and save on energy bills.

For comprehensive information on home energy assessments, including how to hire a professional, how to perform one yourself, and more, visit the EERE *Energy Savers* Web site at energysavers.gov.