

Weatherization: Retrofitting Homes for Efficiency 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: Residential Weatherization B-Roll

Video Only/No Audio

Location: Colorado

Shoot Date: November 2009

Total Running Time: 2:48

Scene 1: 00:07: A weatherization professional applies caulk to joints between framing and exterior walls and installs foam panel insulation against exterior walls. Caulking prevents air leakage—one of the primary culprits making your home less energy efficient. Foam panels help reduce loss of heat through structural elements such as wood.

Scene 2: 00:31: Foam pipe insulation is fitted onto hot water pipes. Insulation can retain between 2° and 4°F of heat through pipes, allowing for a lower water temperature setting on the home's water heater.

Scene 3: 01:04: Insulation installers pump loose fill insulation into an attic—an especially good type of insulation for attics, wall cavities, and other hard-to-reach areas. There are a wide variety of insulation types, each designed for various specific uses.

Scene 4: 02:08: Examples of finished weatherization techniques, including the installation of blanket insulation in framing between studs; expandable spray foam caulk used to seal large gaps; and foam panels installed against wood, then sealed with silicone caulk.

Scene 5: 02:38: A well-insulated water heater can reduce standby heat losses by 25%-45%. This will save around 4%-9% in water heating costs. In most cases, it is an easy, do-it-yourself upgrade. Insulated hot water pipes further reduce heat loss as hot water is delivered through the house.

Learn More about Residential Weatherization

Reducing a home's heating and cooling costs is simple with the use of proper insulation and air sealing techniques. Most energy experts believe these steps alone can pay for themselves within one year in reduced energy bills. DOE, along with state and local governmental agencies, helps Americans realize these savings through the Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program. Among the program's initiatives are the Weatherization Assistance Program, which provides home weatherization services to low-income families, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants Program, which empowers communities to make strategic investments to make the nation's energy cleaner and more efficient. For more information on DOE weatherization programs and initiatives, visit eere.energy.gov/wip.