



Three DIY efficiency projects to tackle this fall

Cooler weather is right around the corner, and the upcoming fall months are the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. A few small changes can have a big impact. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

Make the most of your water heater. Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating costs. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation. You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20.

Seal air leaks with caulk. The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Weather strip exterior doors. One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door and that it fits snugly so it compresses when the door is closed.



Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home. To learn about additional ways to save, visit the "Energy Efficiency" section at CEMCPower.com.