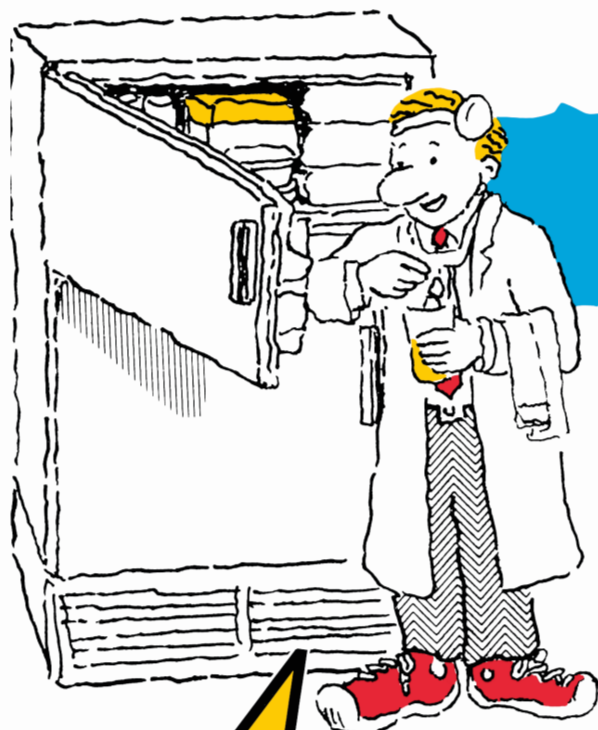
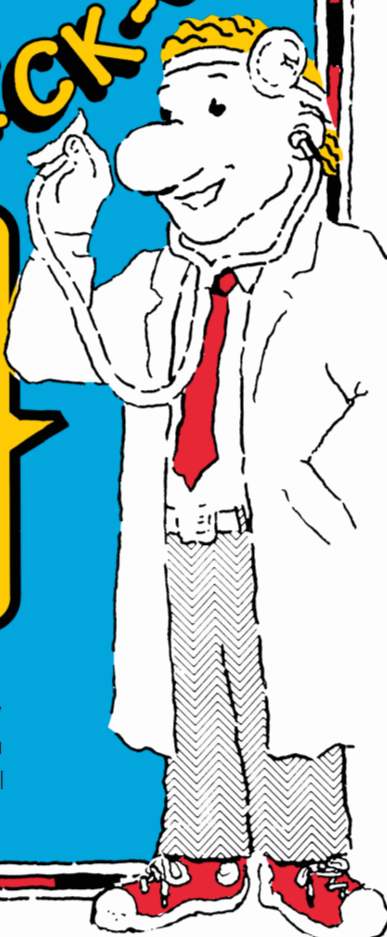


DO-IT-YOURSELF HOME ENERGY CHECK-UP

A bright idea brought to you by your friends at



Join the Energy Doctor in this simple, fun-to-do survey and write your own prescription for home energy health that will save you money!



• Set refrigerator temperature at 40° and freezer at 0°
• Keep your freezer full. Jugs of frozen water in unused freezer space will reduce "run time" and save energy.

Cool it, man!

Your refrigerator can be a source of energy loss. Close the refrigerator door on a dollar bill. If bill slides through easily, the gasket or seal is loose. Cool air is escaping.

- Is the seal on the refrigerator door loose, torn or cracked? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Then locate the coils on the refrigerator. They are either on the back or the bottom near the front of the unit.

- Are the coils dirty? ☐ YES ☐ NO

*It is always a good idea to check your equipment manufacturer's specifications and suggestions for operation at maximum efficiency.

www.cobbemc.com/energymatters

More bright ideas to save energy*

- Use ceiling fans year-round. In winter, run the motor in reverse to force hot air down. Fans use as little energy as a 60-watt bulb.
- If no one is at home during the day, consider a programmable thermostat for your heating/cooling system. It can automatically adjust temperatures while you're away and re-adjust them before you return.
- Don't set your thermostat very low or very high to heat or cool your home quickly. It will only waste energy, and the system will not reach the desired temperature any faster.
- Remember! Your air conditioner or heat pump can only cool your home to 20 degrees lower than the current outdoor temperature. Save energy and set your thermostat accordingly!
- Keep damper closed when fireplace is not in use. Glass doors also reduce heat loss up the chimney.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps. Each bulb can save approximately \$38 in electricity over its lifetime.
- Leave vents in crawl space open year-round.
- Keep heated waterbeds covered.

Here are a few more energy users to check.

- Is your pool pump or hot tub operating without a timer? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Is your hot tub uncovered when not in use? ☐ YES ☐ NO



Here's just what the doctor ordered!

Now, with the check-up complete, we're ready to write your prescription for better energy health. Look for all the "YES-es" that you checked. A "YES" means there is an action item here... recommended by the Energy Doctor, of course. Let's complete the doctor's prescription.

Big ticket items

- ☐ To-Do: Straighten crimped ductwork.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Install mastic or vinyl-backed duct tape to seal ducts.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Insulate ductwork with R-4 or R-6 batt insulation.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Call HVAC contractor for an inspection of my system.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Change my air filter monthly.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Set thermostat on recommended setting:
• Summer 78° or higher.....☐ DONE
• Winter 68° or lower.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Keep 3 to 4 feet clearance around my central air conditioner or heat pump.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Clean and straighten fins of the outdoor unit.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Install a water heater blanket on the electric water heater.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Install molded foam sleeves to wrap hot water pipes. If floor is uninsulated and space is unconditioned, wrap hot and cold pipes.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Water at faucet is _____ degrees...☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Reset water heater thermostat.....☐ DONE

Insulation

- ☐ To-Do: Add R-11 batts to the ceiling of basement or crawl space.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Add _____ inches of attic insulation to achieve R-30.....☐ DONE
Note: When adding batt insulation over existing insulation, install unfaced insulation to prevent moisture build-up. Call a professional to add blown-in insulation.
- ☐ To-Do: Insulate attic access.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Build styrofoam box around recessed lighting.....☐ DONE
Note: Be sure box is large enough to avoid trapping heat.

Windows and doors

- ☐ To-Do: Replace single-pane windows with double-pane or add storm windows.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Replace old, cracked caulk with new.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Install metal weatherstripping around doors...☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Install solid wood or insulated doors.....☐ DONE

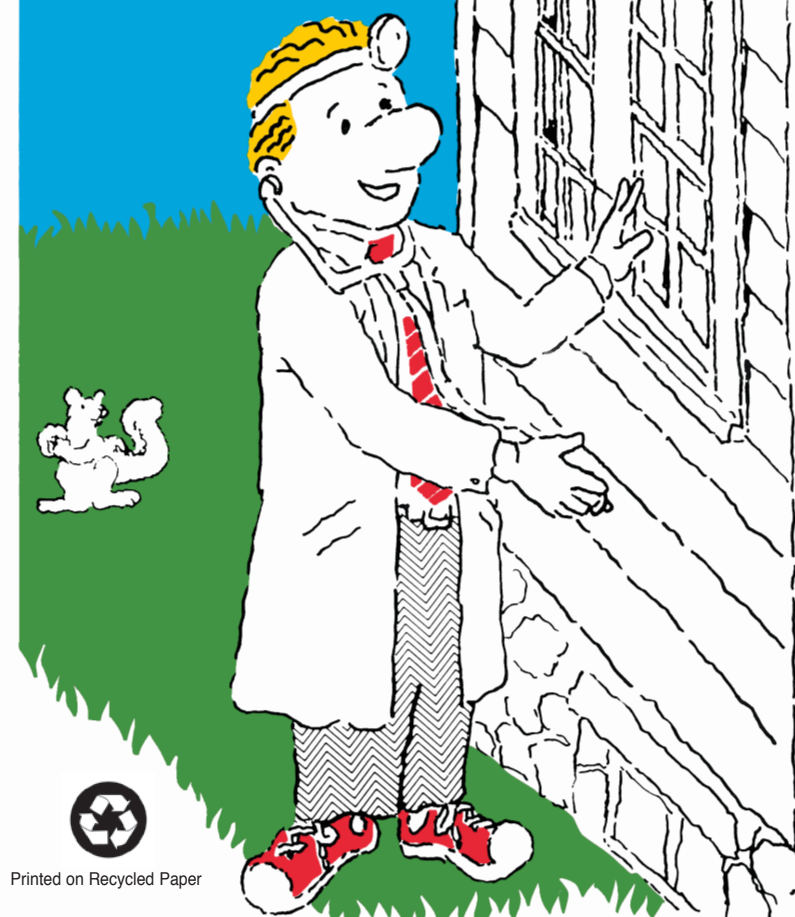
More..... inside and out

- ☐ To-Do: Increase the number of soffit vents in attic.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Call Cobb EMC to have a field services representative assist me in determining ventilation requirements for my attic.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Vent bath, stove and dryer vents outside.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Cover dirt floor in crawl space with plastic sheeting to hold moisture in the ground.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Replace seal on refrigerator door☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Dust refrigerator coils with dry cloth or vacuum attachment.....☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Install timer for pool and/or hot tub ..☐ DONE
- ☐ To-Do: Install cover for the hot tub to hold in heat.....☐ DONE

For additional energy efficiency information and cost comparisons for energy use in your home, visit www.cobbemc.com/content/energy-audit and fill out the online form.

Saving energy can save you money!

And with my Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Check-Up, the examination is painless! Did you know that 60% of the energy you need to heat your home in winter escapes through parts you can insulate, like the walls, ceiling and floors. There are lots of simple things you can do to save money.



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Before you begin, these are the tools you'll need:

- A tape measure
- A pencil
- A candy thermometer or any thermometer that measures liquid up to 160°
- A pair of work gloves to protect your hands

Got everything?

Okay! Turn the page and get started with the Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Check-Up.

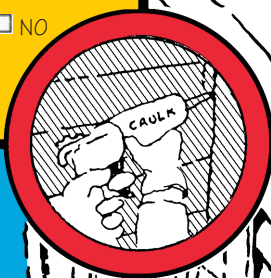
START HERE!

First stop.

Window, window on the wall.

Locate places where air may leak into your home. Check around windows and anywhere two exterior surfaces meet.

- Are windows single-pane? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Are there gaps and crevices around windows? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Is existing caulk cracking? ☐ YES ☐ NO



Do you have batts in your attic?

Attic insulation reduces heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer. A rule of thumb: If you see the tops of the joists, you need insulation.

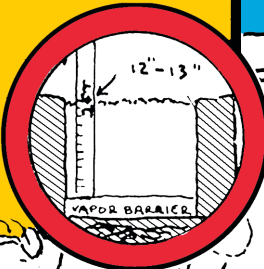
- Are top of joists visible? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Measure the depth of your attic insulation. You probably have either batts (rolls) or blown-in. We recommend blown-in insulation to be 13 inches deep to equal R-30, or batt insulation to be 12 inches deep.

- Insulation depth is _____ inches.

Check to see if light from the living space below is visible around recessed lights or attic fans.

- Is light from living space below visible around fixtures? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Is attic access without insulation and weatherstripping? ☐ YES ☐ NO



Vent your built-up heat!

A poorly vented attic can reach up to 150° in the summer. Remember, the cooler the attic, the less expensive it is to cool the living space. Check your attic ventilation **inside**.

- Are soffit vents blocked with insulation? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Are bath, stove and dryer vents vented into the attic? ☐ YES ☐ NO

• Turn the lights off in the attic. Look for natural light coming in around the edge of the attic. If the area goes totally dark, there are not enough soffit vents under the eaves of the house to provide adequate ventilation.

- Minimize the amount of flooring in the attic. It compresses the insulation and reduces its "R value".
- Storing boxes or objects directly on the insulation also reduces the "R value".

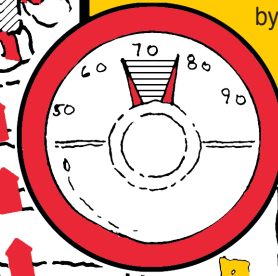
and out: Go to the back of your house and look at the roof. Either a continuous ridge vent or a turbine, dome or a box-style vent should be visible.

- Is a continuous ridge vent absent from the peak of the roof? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Are turbine, dome or box style vents absent from the roof? ☐ YES ☐ NO

I'll meet you on the other side with some more bright ideas for saving energy, plus your prescription for big energy savings!

Set the thermostat... and go.

Keep your thermostat on 78° or higher in the summer and 68° or lower in the winter. For every degree below 78° in summer, your cooling cost will increase by 5%, and decrease by 5% for every degree above 78°. In the winter, every degree below 68° saves 5%. Thermostat setting _____



- Install gaskets behind switch plates to keep out cold air.

- Check for holes around pipes under the sink. Fill them with foam sealant.

- Don't cover air vents with plants, furniture, rugs or other items.

Check those outside doors.

Determine what type of exterior doors you have. A thump on the door will sound hollow if doors are not solid wood or are not insulated. Also, check for gaps around the door that create drafts. Close the door and look for daylight and feel for drafts around the door frame.

- Are exterior doors hollow? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Are there gaps and crevices around doors? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Is weatherstripping around doors absent? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Checking your outdoor unit... heat pump or air conditioner... is a breeze.

Locate your central air conditioning unit(s).

- Is your air conditioner or heat pump cluttered with objects or crowded with shrubbery that hamper air flow? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Are the fins clogged or dented? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Okay let's put our ducts in a row...

Duct leaks reduce energy efficiency and cost you money. While systems are in operation, feel for escaping air around joints. If ductwork is insulated, pull back insulation to check for soiled areas around joints. Soiled insulation means air is leaking and the insulation is acting as a filter.

- Is ductwork crimped or kinked? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Is air escaping around joints? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Is ductwork un-insulated? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- If you have insulation, is insulation soiled? ☐ YES ☐ NO



Now, let's look at the water heater.

Water heating is your second largest energy user. Locate your water heater.

- Are there any visible leaks? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Is the unit without a water heater blanket? (Electric unit only) ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Are exposed hot water pipes un-insulated? ☐ YES ☐ NO

- Be sure the vapor barrier or brown paper side of insulation is toward living space. Don't staple. Instead, use tiger teeth to install.

Our next stop is to check the furnace.

Heating/cooling is your largest energy user. Proper maintenance can save as much as 10% on heating and cooling costs. Locate your heating equipment. It may be in the attic, basement or storage area. Then locate the air filter.

- Is the air filter soiled? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- Has it been more than 30 days since the air filter was changed? ☐ YES ☐ NO



Now, check your thermostat(s) setting.

The water heater should be set at 120° to 140° or on medium. When we get upstairs, check hot water temperature at any faucet.



To help keep the temperature steady, check the floor insulation.

Go in your basement or crawl space.

- Is the floor (ceiling of the basement or crawl space) un-insulated? ☐ YES ☐ NO
- A plastic covering is recommended to cover the dirt in the crawl space.
- If you have a crawl space, is the dirt uncovered? ☐ YES ☐ NO

