

HOW TO'S *for the* HANDY HOMEOWNER

SELECTING THE RIGHT PRODUCT

When restoring your home, you have the opportunity to make it better than ever. Use proven products and materials that will save money on your utility bills, reduce maintenance demands, improve the quality and comfort of your home, and safeguard the environment.

LOOK FOR THE ENERGY STAR®

ENERGY STAR qualified products use less energy, save money, and help protect the environment.

Heating and Cooling Equipment

Air conditioning accounts for nearly 40% of energy use in the average home in the Gulf Coast. Installing ENERGY STAR qualified models can dramatically reduce your total energy bill. The purchase price may be slightly higher than a less-efficient model, but your energy savings will quickly pay back this investment.

Programmable Thermostat

Save up to \$100 per year in heating and cooling costs by installing an ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat.

Lighting

Save more than \$60 every year by replacing the 5 most frequently used lights in your home with ENERGY STAR qualified fixtures or compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs use less energy, produce less heat, and last up to 10 times longer than standard bulbs. That means more money in your pocket and fewer trips up the ladder to change those bulbs.

Clothes Washer

ENERGY STAR qualified washers typically use half the energy and 60% of the water

of conventional clothes washers, saving an average of 7,000 gallons of water a year—enough to do more than 300 loads of laundry! These washers are gentler on clothes, resulting in a longer life for your clothing.

Dehumidifier

ENERGY STAR qualified dehumidifiers use up to 20% less energy than other models. A 40-pint ENERGY STAR qualified unit saves about \$20 per year. This adds up to more than \$200 over the 11-year life of the unit—enough to pay for the dehumidifier.

Refrigerator

ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerators use as little energy as a 75-watt light bulb.

Windows

Save more than \$200 per year by replacing single-paned windows with ENERGY STAR qualified models.

Dishwasher

Replacing a dishwasher manufactured before 1994 with an ENERGY STAR qualified dishwasher can save you more than \$25 a year in energy costs.

Home Electronics

ENERGY STAR qualified models use as much as 50% less energy to perform standby functions.

HOW TO'S *for the* HANDY HOMEOWNER SERIES

► Your House is a System

► Selecting the Right Product

► Repairing Walls & Floors

► Repairing Roofs & Ceilings

► Repairing Windows & Doors

NOTE: Contact a professional engineer if there is any evidence of structural damage to the home. If filing an insurance claim related to the damaged area, consult an agent before conducting any repair work. The local building agency can provide further guidance on applicable codes.



Energy bills for the typical Gulf Coast home are estimated to total \$1,650 in 2006. These costs could be reduced by up to 30% by installing ENERGY STAR qualified products.



U.S. Department of Energy
**Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy**



SELECTING THE RIGHT PRODUCT

REDUCE MAINTENANCE WITH DURABLE PRODUCTS

Choose materials that last longer, install more quickly, and require little maintenance.

Fiber-cement siding siding is long-lasting and resistant to fire and termites. It holds paint well because it does not absorb water.

Cellular PVC is a solid, extruded material that has the working characteristics of wood and is used for interior and exterior trim. Imagine doing your intricate exterior detailing with a material that keeps its shape and never needs painting.

Composite decking made from fiberglass reinforced plastic is virtually maintenance-free. It doesn't crack, split, or warp, and lasts much longer than wood.

BOOST PLUMBING EFFICIENCY

If your plumbing is ready for an overhaul, consider a system that is faster to install, delivers hot water to the faucet quickly, and reduces energy and water consumption.

Plumbing manifolds and PEX piping use a circuit breaker-like control center for hot and cold water that feeds flexible supply lines to individual fixtures. The PEX pipe's flexibility makes it quick and easy to snake around wall studs and floor joists.

Air admittance valves (AAVs) eliminate the need for most conventional venting and roof penetrations when venting your drain plumbing. This saves time and money because you won't need lateral return vent runs that require cutting several holes through wall studs, or long runs of vertical piping that must pass through the ceilings, attic, and roof.

Tankless water heaters provide endless hot water on demand, reducing or eliminating standby energy loss. The small size of a tankless heater may allow shorter plumbing runs or conversion of a utility closet to a more useful space. However, a tankless water heater may require a larger gas pipe so installation may cost more than a standard water heater.

IMPROVE YOUR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Upgrade your network to improve capacity and durability.

Electrical raceways, commonly used in commercial buildings, are now available for residential applications. They can simplify and speed the task of rewiring and reduce wall penetrations that allow air infiltration.

Structured wiring systems can accommodate consumers' stronger networking needs. These systems often use a Category 5E (or better) cable for voice and data, and RG6 coaxial cable for video.

GO SOLAR

Save energy and brighten your home with a little help from the sun.

Tubular skylights are generally much easier to install than typical skylights and, from the home's interior, resemble conventional lighting fixtures. They also can direct the natural light where *you* want it.

Solar water heaters usually mount flush with a home's roof and resemble skylights. They work well with a tankless back-up system.

Photovoltaic panels convert sunlight into electricity for your home.

CHOOSE DURABLE, HEALTHY FINISHES

Look for more than the decorative aspect of wall and floor finishes—choose products that are durable, earth-friendly, and easy on indoor air quality.

Alternative flooring materials, such as bamboo and recycled-content carpet, are environmentally friendly, attractive, and more durable than the conventional alternatives—at comparable prices.

Low-VOC paints do not release significant pollutants and are virtually odor free.

Grid-marked wood sheathing

has pre-printed gridlines to facilitate measuring, marking, cutting, and fastening. It can reduce installation time when used for complex roofs or floors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE:

ENERGY STAR
www.energystar.gov

PATH's Technology Inventory
www.toolbase.org/techinv

Energy Efficient Rehab Advisor
www.rehabadvisor.com