

# **Energy Audit Recommendations for New Home Construction**

(also applicable to major remodeling and renovations)

- R-49 or greater in the attic or ceiling space (*cellulose only*)
  - R-19 or greater in the exterior walls (*cellulose or foam*)
  - R-13 or greater in foundation walls,
    - basements (*fiberglass, cellulose, foam board*)
    - crawlspaces (*spray foam, foam board*)
  - R-25 or greater in exterior floors (*spray foam, cellulose, foam board*)
  - R-8 or greater on the slab foundation (*foam board*)
  - R-19 or greater in the rim joist (be sure the entire rim joist/seal plate is properly air sealed as well) (*spray foam, cellulose, foam board*)
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- We recommend that any access to the attic be located outside of the conditioned space (example – in the garage) whenever possible. If the attic access must be located within the conditioned space of the home, take special precautions to insure it is properly air sealed and insulated.
  - Be sure to properly air seal and insulate any knee-walls (walls that are exposed/adjacent to the attic – typically found in story and a half construction). Be sure to treat any doors leading to the attic space as exterior doors (properly insulate and air seal – or install exterior doors).
  - Limit the number of recessed lights you install throughout the home. Be sure that you take extra precautions to properly air seal and insulate any recessed lights that you choose to have installed (we recommend addressing this prior to adding attic insulation).
  - If you install a whole house (attic) fan (not recommended) take extra precautions to insure it is properly air sealed and insulated.
  - If you are putting in a wood burning fireplace (not recommended) take extra precautions to insure you have a good damper system with a gasket seal to avoid unnecessary heat loss.
  - Purchase exhaust fans with air tight housing to prevent unwanted air infiltration.
  - Purchase Energy Star® windows and doors.
  - Take extra precautions to insure that the windows and doors are properly installed and the rough openings (perimeter) of the windows and exterior doors are insulated and air sealed.
  - Take extra precautions to air seal around all plumbing, electrical, cable/satellite and telephone lines that may enter the house.
  - If you have any of your heating/cooling system ductwork in an unconditioned area, be sure that it is air sealed and insulated. It is our recommendation to make every effort to have all heating/cooling equipment and ductwork within the conditioned space.
  - Install a Ground Source Heat Pump heat and cooling system. \*MEC sells, installs and rebates Ground Source Heat Pumps for our members (contact our office for details, pricing and rebate amounts).
  - Purchase a high efficiency water heater and wrap all accessible water pipes. \* MEC provides rebates on qualifying water heaters (contact our office for rebate amounts or visit our website @ maconelectric.com).
  - Purchase Energy Star® appliances and electronics whenever possible. \*MEC has rebates on some Energy Star® appliances (contact our office for rebate amounts or visit our website @ maconelectric.com)..
  - Purchase and install energy efficient lighting fixtures and bulbs that carry an Energy Star® label.

**Note(s): 1) Please let us know if you or your builder/contractors have any questions or concerns regarding any of the above listed recommendations. 2) We will not be able to provide cost share money for any recommendations listed for which we already have a rebate established.**