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The Homeowner's Guide to Energy Saving Renovations

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Introduction

Most home renovations aren't about saving energy, they're about appearances or function. You might be updating your very 80s living room, making your small kitchen bigger, or finishing your basement. But energy saving renovations can tie in to your other renovation projects as well and are beneficial for things such as:

- **The Environment, and**
- **Cutting down your energy costs**

As a responsible homeowner, you care about the environmental impact of your home, as well as your energy use and costs.

By making some of the energy saving renovations we outline in this guide, you can reduce your energy footprint and your energy costs and improve the value of your home.

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Guidebook Outline

Energy Efficient Appliances

If you're redoing your kitchen, chances are that you're going to want a new stove, dishwasher, and fridge. If you're redoing your laundry room, you're going to want a new washer and dryer. Why not choose Energy Star rated appliances? Energy Star is a program run by the U.S. EPA to help consumers select energy saving appliances. These energy saving appliances tend to have longer lives than older, less efficient models, and their energy savings are huge.

Appliance Type	Energy Star Rated Appliances
Refrigerators	20% more energy efficient than standard models
Washing Machines	Use 50% less water than standard models Use 50% less energy than standard models
Dishwashers	9% more energy efficient than standard models 11% more water efficient than standard models

Get a Cool Roof

What's a cool roof?

Cool roofs are designed to deflect heat by reflecting the rays of the sun that are constantly hitting the roof and heating up your home, especially during the summer.

This technology keeps your home from absorbing as much heat, keeping your cooling costs down. An added benefit of this type of roof is that they can also prevent or reduce other roof issues that are caused from heat transfer between the inside and outside, things like ice dams that can cause serious roof damage.

Replace your HVAC Unit with High-efficiency HVAC

A high-efficiency heating and cooling system can be one of the biggest energy saving (and cost saving) changes you can make to your home. With the amount of money you save on energy bills, a high-efficiency unit will end up paying for itself.

Ways to Maximize Efficiency

- Redesigning the ductwork layout.
- Adding insulation - preventing loss of air.

Replace Windows with Energy Efficient Windows & Window Placement

Windows are one of the least energy efficient parts of your home. After all, they're basically just a hole in your wall, and glass isn't an amazing insulator. Of course, don't go without windows: they're important for natural light and ventilation, as well as emergency exits. Choosing the most energy efficient windows possible, with a rating of R-6 or R-7, can help loss of conditioned air and save energy. If you're making an addition to your home or doing an extensive remodel of a room or area, where you place windows can help you save energy as well.

> ***Tip:*** *Windows that are full north are not very energy efficient, so keep windows on this side of the home small and well insulated. Place more windows on the south and east sides of the home to allow for lots of natural light, but minimal heat intake in the summer.*

Install Energy Efficient Lighting

This is a no-brainer to add to your list with any renovation you do, because it's simple, easy, and the savings can be big. Back in the day, energy saving lighting meant huge, ugly fluorescent tubes, but today, the most energy efficient options on the market are LED lighting and compact fluorescent bulbs. These use significantly less wattage and provide even more light than traditional incandescent bulbs. LEDs particularly have an extremely long life span, so while the initial cost per bulb is greater, over time they pay for themselves, as they don't have to be replaced for years.

	Incandescent (traditional)	Compact Fluroescent	LED
Average Cost	$1	$2	$8
Wattage	60 W	14 W	10 W
Average Lifespan	1,200 hours	8,000 hours	25,000 hours
Cost of electricity used for 25,000 hours at 12 cents/kWh	$180	$42	$30

We Can Help

No matter what kind of home you live in or the changes you're planning to make to it, you can make your home more energy efficient, which will save energy and save you money on energy bills. If you have questions about energy saving renovations, renovation in general, or lumber or building materials, contact Zeeland Lumber. We have expert advice on home renovation, an extensive selection of energy efficient windows and other building products, and skilled installers for the parts of the renovation process you'd rather leave to the pros. Visit our locations in Zeeland, Michigan; Waterford, Michigan; or Mishawaka, Indiana; or visit our website to get in touch!

Have questions about energy saving renovations?

Visit one of our Zeeland Lumber locations, or call us at 888-772-2119 to get expert advice on energy efficient home renovation.

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General Notes