

THE IAMU HOME HEAT LOSS QUIZ

This Home Heat Loss Quiz was adapted for use by the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, its member utilities, and their customers. It is intended to give you an idea of how well your home is weatherized and insulated. You simply answer a series of questions and then assign points for each answer. The quiz should take less than 30 minutes to complete. If you take the time, you may just find a way to lower your energy bill by 25% or more.



Once you've tallied the points for each answer, you can easily "grade" your home to see how energy efficient you really are. But a note of caution is warranted: a worksheet such as this can provide only a rough indication of home energy efficiency. If you are interested in having work done on your home, you should contact your local municipality and ask for information about a residential energy audit. An audit can provide you with more detailed recommendations about which efficiency improvements make sense for your specific home.

1. What Is Your Thermostat Setting?

If your thermostat is set at 68 degrees or less during the daytime in winter, score 6 points; 5 points for 69 degrees; 4 points for 70 degrees. If your thermostat is set above 70 degrees, score 0.

If you have whole-house air conditioning and you keep your temperature at 78 degrees in the summer, score 5 points; 4 points for 77 degrees; 3 points for 76 degrees. If you have no air conditioning, score 7 points. If your thermostat is below 76 degrees, score 0 points.

In winter, if you have your thermostat back to 60 degrees or less at night, score 10 points; 9 points for 61 degrees; 8 points for 62 degrees; 7 points for 63 degrees; 6 points for 64 degrees; 5 points for 65 degrees. If your thermostat is set above 65 degrees at night, score 0.

2. Is Your House Drafty?

To check for drafts, hold a flame (candle or match) about one inch from where windows and doors meet their frames.

If the flame doesn't move, there is no draft around your windows, and you score 10 points. If the flame moves, score 0. _____

If there is no draft around your doors, add 5 points. If there is a draft, score 0. _____

If you have a fireplace and keep the damper closed or block the airflow when it is not in use, add 4 points. _____

If you do not have a fireplace, add 4 points. _____

If you leave the damper open when the fireplace is not being used, score 0. _____

3. How Well Is Your Attic Insulated?

Currently, it is recommended that Iowa homes have about 12 inches of ceiling insulation in the attic.

If you already have the recommended 12 inches of insulation, score 30 points. _____

If you have 3 inches less than you should, score 20 points. _____

If you have 6 inches less than you should, score 10 points. _____

If you have 9 inches less than you should, score 5 points. _____

If you have less than 3 inches of insulation in your attic, score 0. _____

4. Is Your Wall Insulated?

If you have insulation in your walls, score 10 points. _____

If you have no insulation in your walls, score 0. _____

5. Is Your Floor Insulated?

If you have unheated space under your house and there is insulation under your floor, add 10 points; if there is no insulation, score 0.

If you have a heated or air-conditioned basement, or if there is no space under your house, score 10.

6. Do You Use Storm Windows?

If you use storm windows, score 20 points. If you do not have storm windows, score 0.

Your Energy Quotient Total:

How Well Did You Do?

If you score 100 or above: Congratulations! You are already an energy saver. By keeping your home well insulated and draft free, you are using energy more efficiently than 90 percent of your neighbors. Despite your high score, there still may be a chance to save even more energy in a way that saves you money. Check with your municipal utility for more information.

If you score under 100: You're probably spending more money than you need to in order to keep your home comfortable through an Iowa winter. Check the quiz again to see where you lost the most points. That's where you can make the greatest savings in your annual fuel bill. Those are also areas where you can improve the comfort, appearance, and resale value of your home.

How Much Money Can Be Saved?

As mentioned in the opening paragraphs of this quiz, you should contact your municipal utility for more information on specific costs and savings associated with home energy improvements. For comparison purposes, however, if you scored less than 100 points on the quiz, a savings of 25% or more is not uncommon.