



Insulation & Efficiency Values:

Most homeowners don't fully understand R-Values, U-Values, Seer Values, etc. nor the real savings of such. A little extra insulation goes a long way and will always pay for itself especially when you consider the following: One inch of insulation equals 3.5 inches of wood; or 34 inches of brick; or 8.5 inches of drywall; or 46 inches of Concrete; or 17 inches of Cinder Block, or 46 inches of Stone. And that's just one inch! Also, depending on your furnace, A/C efficiency, R Values, etc in your home (and how long you intend on living there) will determine if you should upgrade. But consider the following:

- 1- A low E window** is clear glass with a thin, transparent metal-oxide coating that provides U Value. The lower the U Value of the window the more efficient the window. Low E helps block the transfer of radiant heat which keeps your home warmer in winter and cooler in summer. Since ordinary clear glass has no coating, it has no insulation value and therefore absorbs and transmits heat very readily. Low-E glass is more than three times efficient than clear glass. Also, in the summer, clear glass absorbs heat from the outside and transmits it into the cooler interior, putting added strain on your air conditioners. Since Low-E glass helps stop this transmission it saves you money all year long.
- 2- R Value in walls and ceilings:** The effectiveness of insulation is stated in "R" value, "R" stands for resistance. The higher the "R" value, the more effective the insulation. When you buy insulation you should buy it not by inches, but by "R" value. We recommend a R-50 in ceiling/attic and at least an R-13 in walls and Low E glass windows.
- 3- Seer Values:** When discussing air conditioning system efficiencies, the SEER number is the typical guideline, and the higher the SEER number, the more efficient the unit (E.g., a 13 SEER unit is 30% more efficient than a 10 SEER unit. For every increase in seer {10, 11, 12...17} the efficiency raises 10%). This information can be a considerable help when evaluating the cost versus the value of a new system. Since electricity is more expensive than gas it is actually more important to have a high efficient air conditioner than high efficient furnace. We recommend no less than a 13-seer A/C unit, however depending on how long you live in your home you may want to go to a higher seer as you will receive the payoff in time.
- 4- Furnace Efficiency:** The minimum standard efficient furnace put in new homes today is an 80%+ furnace. However, with ever increase utility costs and buyer awareness of energy efficiency we recommend no less than a 90%+ furnace. A higher efficient furnace can pay for itself within a four to six year period. You can actually buy up to 97% efficient furnaces that depending on how long you live in your home will pay off in time.

Of course there are many other less expensive ways to make your home more efficient and for a more complete list, visit our website at www.phutah.com and go to our Article Library. Lastly, if you live in a Patterson Home you already enjoy a well insulated and high energy efficient home!

Oh by the way, since a large percent of our business comes by word of mouth, we have created a **Referral Reward** (*money, home improvements, vacation packages*) for your referrals of friends, family and acquaintances that in turn buy from us. It's a win-win three ways. You not only receive a reward while we receive a sale, but your referred person receives significant additional options and discounts on their new home - all because of you! Simply go to www.phutah.com, and click on "Referral Reward."

