



Boulder County
Land Use Department
Publications

Home Energy Audits

Land Use Department
Courthouse Annex Building
2045 13th Street
PO Box 471
Boulder, CO 80302

Building Safety & Inspection Services Division:

Phone: 303-441-3925
Fax: 303-441-4856

Email: building_official@bouldercounty.org
<http://www.bouldercounty.org/lu/>

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Building Permits can be applied for
and issued until 4:00 PM

Home Energy Audits

BuildSmart code changes affect all new residential construction and additions throughout unincorporated Boulder County and went into affect May 1, 2008.

What? Why? And How Much?

Why Conduct a Home Energy Audit?

Home Energy Audits are required by Boulder County for most additions and remodels under 500 square feet in size. Home Energy Audits are also required to participate in the Boulder County 1A Residential Efficiency Loan Program and to participate in the Insulate Colorado Program.

However, the most important reason to get a Home Energy Audit is that it will provide you with a tremendous amount of information about the simplest and most cost effective ways to make your home more comfortable while lowering your utility bills and carbon footprint.

How Much Does a Home Energy Audit Cost?

Boulder County thinks that Home Energy Audits are such a valuable tool to reduce both your utility bills and your carbon footprint they are offering subsidized audits through the Center for Resource Conservation.

For homes up to 2,500 square feet, an audit could cost for as little as \$100. A maximum cost of \$250 for homes above 4,500 square feet.

You can contact Center for Resource Conservation at 303-999-3820, or visit them on the web at www.conservationcenter.org.

What Does A Home Energy Audit Include?

1. **A Computerized Analysis of Your Utility Bills:** The last 12 months of your utility bills will be analyzed to point up the relative efficiency of your home and possible sources of inefficiency.
2. **A Blower Door Test:** In a typical Boulder County home we lose a significant amount of energy through air infiltration we want to both test the relative air tightness and locate specific points of air leakage so they can be repaired.
3. **Insulation Check:** The auditor will inspect your attic, walls and crawl space to see how much, if any, insulation is present and the type and quality of its installation.
4. **Heating, Cooling, and Hot Water Heating Equipment Assessment:** The auditor will inspect your hot water heater, furnace or boiler, air conditioner and check the condition of your ducts if applicable and accessible. Many auditors are also able to perform a worst case combustion air zone (CAZ) test if requested.
5. **Windows and Doors:** The auditor will also inspect your windows and exterior doors for air tightness and energy efficiency.
6. **Lighting and Large Appliance Evaluation:** The auditor will assess the efficiency of your lighting system, refrigerator, washing machine, freezer etc.
7. **Water Use:** The auditor will inspect your showerheads and toilets for inefficiencies.
8. **Recommendations:** The inspector will issue you a written report outlining his findings and making recommendations for cost effective improvements to make your home more comfortable, reduce your utility bills and lower your carbon footprint.