

ENERGY SAVING IDEAS

Opening The Door To A Greener Home

(NAPSA)—Four out of five people are interested in being “green,” according to a nationwide survey among homeowners. And, nine out of 10 homeowners agree that improving the energy efficiency of their homes is one of the most useful actions to help the environment.

This notion is a step in the right direction, as the home is a leading source of pollution. In fact, about 17 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions are generated from the energy used in houses nationwide.

Fortunately, homeowners can go green with three quick and easy home energy tune-ups:

- Caulk gaps and cracks
- Switch to ENERGY STAR-qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
- Install a low-flow showerhead.

According to ENERGY STAR, the most cost-effective action homeowners can take to improve energy efficiency is sealing and insulating their homes. Sealing gaps and cracks with silicone caulk, such as GE Silicone II, and insulating the home can reduce total energy costs by up to 10 percent.

CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy than regular incandescent bulbs. High-efficiency showerheads can cut hot water demand by an estimated 40 percent. Together, these three easy actions can save homeowners hundreds of dollars a year in energy costs and remove hundreds of pounds of greenhouse gases from the environment.



The right caulk can help seal a home and save energy.

“Caulking is a small expense for a big step toward a greener world,” said Rodney Hawkins, general manager of Momentive Performance Materials, an exclusive licensee of General Electric. “The key is to be sure to use silicone, not acrylic caulk, when sealing. If it’s not silicone, you may not get the same impact.”

Silicone is waterproof and permanently flexible, unlike acrylic caulk. And silicone won’t shrink or crack like acrylic caulk. Acrylics shrink up to 25 percent, leaving cracks and gaps for air and water to leak through, meaning an additional afternoon spent resealing the home and more waste put in the environment. Also, GE Silicone II XST, a paintable silicone formula, has the benefits of silicone and the paintability of acrylic all in one.

For additional energy-saving and how-to tips and for information on sealing your home, visit www.gesealants.com.