

# ENERGY SAVING IDEAS

## Showing Drafts The Door—And Windows

(NAPSA)—According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in a typical house, over 40 percent of the annual energy budget is consumed by heating and cooling.

Fortunately, for many homeowners, properly selecting windows and doors can help save a significant amount of money. According to some experts, the right high-performance, energy-efficient window could save up to three months worth of energy bills.

In recent years, windows have undergone a technological revolution. The remarkable advances in their performance are based mainly on developments in glass coating and insulated glazing.

The benefits include:

- Reduction of air infiltration and heat loss.
- Less frost and condensation.
- Less fading of carpets, fabrics, upholstery, wallpaper, artwork, paints and wood trim.
- Reduction in peak heating and cooling loads, which can result in a smaller heating or cooling system.

To determine if your current window package measures up, ask a local window expert. If you do need new windows, there are five steps to consider:

1. Check with the utility company. It may offer incentives to homeowners who make improvements that save energy. You may be eligible for a low-interest loan or discount if you replace your windows.

2. Ask the window provider about energy-efficiency insulating features such as argon gas between the panes of glass and a low-E coating.

3. Look for the Energy Star. The Energy Star program was cre-



**Many homeowners overlook their doors and windows when trying to save energy.**

ated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the DOE to help individuals identify products that save energy.

4. Read labels. The National Fenestration Rating Council label contains the window's U-value and other ratings. The lower the U-value, the better the window will resist heat transfer.

5. Look online. Some informative sites regarding windows include the Efficient Windows Collaborative, [www.efficientwindows.org](http://www.efficientwindows.org); Energy Star, [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov); and the National Fenestration Rating Council, [www.nfrc.org](http://www.nfrc.org).

To find out about Energy Star-approved products and high-efficiency windows, you can also visit the Web site of Pella corporation, window provider and DOE's partner in the Energy Star program. It's [www.pella.com](http://www.pella.com); or you can call 888-84-PELLA.