

What happens when a home is weatherized?

Step 1: Initial Inspection

When a household is determined to be eligible for the program, an appointment is scheduled for an initial inspection of the dwelling. The purpose of the inspection is to determine where and how much energy is being lost. An inspector will visit the home and will, as the housing conditions dictate, perform some or all of the following activities:

- introduce themselves and discuss issues with the client, determine approximate age of home (this will assist in determining if Lead Safe Weatherization practices are needed);
- perform combustion efficiency tests on combustion heating appliances (furnaces, boilers, space heaters, water heaters);
 - gas leak detection
 - visual inspection
 - combustion analysis of flue gases and temperature
 - other safety checks
 - worst case depressurization draft test of combustion appliances
- test and/or visually inspect the heating and cooling distribution system for missing or blocked sections, adequate sizing, leaks in hydronic systems;
- carbon monoxide test of combustion cook stoves (stoves and range tops);
- inspection of insulation levels in attic, sidewalls, and floors/perimeter (if living space is over an unconditioned space such as a crawlspace or unheated basement);
- visual inspection of interior of the home to see if existing problems may cause problems with insulating (these problems may include, but are not limited to, mold/mildew issues, missing plaster, plumbing leaks);
- identify areas where electrical base load measures can be installed to lower the electrical consumption of the home (this may include but is not limited to refrigerator metering and possible replacement, and installation of compact fluorescent light bulbs);
- visual inspection of outside of the dwelling to see if existing problems may be causing damage (for example drainage, gutters/downspouts and missing exterior siding); and
- conduct an air infiltration test using a blower door.

Step 2: Build a Working Partnership with the Customer

The inspector will discuss with the client what the initial inspection identified and what the weatherization assistance program will address. The inspector also explains actions the customer can take to gain the maximum benefit from weatherization including creating a personalized energy management plan.

Step 3: Schedule and Complete the Work

The inspector will write a work order of the items to be addressed (to be completed by weatherization providers' in-house crews or by outside contractors). A weatherization crew will typically spend from one to four days in a customer's home before the work is completed and quality is assured.

Step 4: Final Quality Assurance Inspection

After the work is completed, a final quality assurance inspection is scheduled to be performed on the home. The inspection may be accomplished by the original inspector or by another individual. This final quality assurance inspection will repeat the testing performed during the initial inspection to ensure that all components of the home are completed according to the Weatherization Program Standards. The final inspector will review the completed work order (or invoice if contracted work) to verify that all work has been completed appropriately (this may include but is not limited to the installation of sidewall insulation to a "dense pack" of 3.25 to 3.75 lbs. per cubic foot of sidewall, and that combustion analysis of flue gases are within appropriate range for the heating fuel). The final quality assurance inspector will discuss the work performed by the program with the client to ensure that the client is satisfied.