

Top 5 Investments for Homeowners



These tend to be the best places to invest in energy efficiency. Before you invest in efficiency, take 10 minutes for a free, online Home Energy Review from Energy Trust of Oregon. You'll get a sense of the best places to start to save the most, soonest.

1. Add insulation and weatherize.

An estimated 80 percent of pre-1980 homes are under-insulated.* Your attic is the best and easiest place to add insulation. Learn more about insulation, duct sealing and other weatherization measures, and how you can get cash back.

2. Heat and cool efficiently.

In electric-heated homes, this will be your biggest energy user. Consider a heat pump — the most efficient way to heat and cool your home. Learn more and discover how you can get cash back in our Heat Pump section.

3. Upgrade your water heater.

Since your water heater is one of the biggest energy users in your home, a new energy-efficient water heater is a great way to save. Learn more and discover how you can get cash back in our Water Heaters section.

4. Choose premium-efficiency appliances.

When it's time to buy a major appliance, it pays to invest in the most energy-efficient model you can afford. You may pay more up front, but when you figure in the energy savings, year after year, a premium-efficiency model ends up costing less in the long run. Start by looking for ENERGY STAR® certified models. Also look at models that qualify for Energy Trust cash incentives; these models meet tough energy-efficiency standards. Learn more and discover how you can get cash back in our in our Appliances & Electronics section.

5. Change your windows.

High-efficiency windows can provide long-term savings and also add value to your home. But as an efficiency step, this should be your last priority. They are most effective when installed in combination with other measures such as insulation. Learn more and discover how you can get cash back in our Weatherization & Windows section.