




**Air Sealing, Insulation,  
HVAC, and Windows...**


**The Whole House Energy  
Upgrade Approach**

# Welcome


- ▶ All cell phones must be turned off or to vibrate.
  - ▶ If you must take a call, please do so outside.
  - ▶ Restrooms are located . . .
  - ▶ Please briefly introduce yourselves. Name, company, city and what you do.
- 

# About Today's Class

We'll talk about:

- ▶ Building Science basics
  - ▶ Air Sealing
  - ▶ Insulation
  - ▶ HVAC
  - ▶ Window
  - ▶ Possible Business models
- 

# Background

- ▶ The integration of Building Science efficiency measures, and energy upgrade(s) improvements can demonstrate true savings results.
  - ▶ Testing protocols, software modeling, rating tools, and energy policy are moving the residential market place toward the “whole-house-as-a-system” approach.
- 



# Building Science 101

- ▶ Knowledge of building science can help remodelers improve the performance of homes
  - Cost
  - Comfort
  - Durability
  - Efficiency
  - IAQ



# Why Building Science?

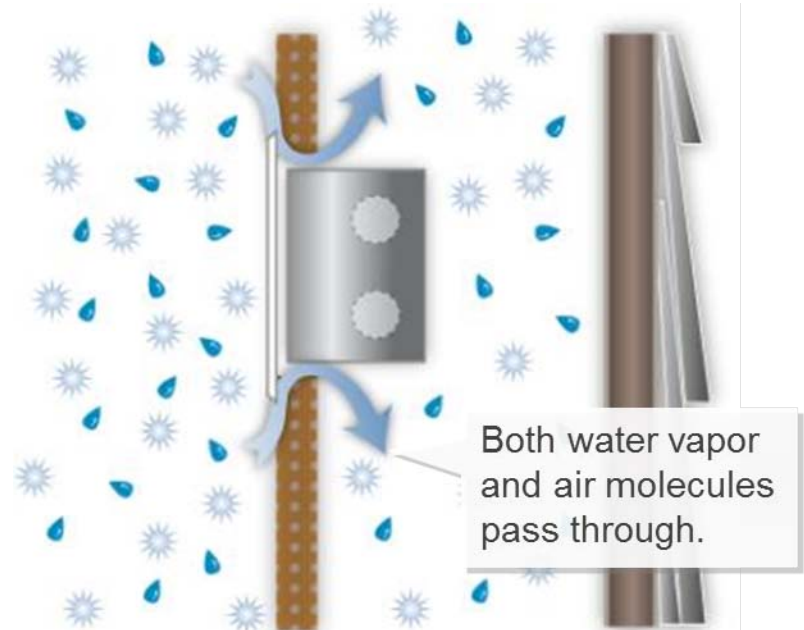
- Provides greater understanding of aspects of house and their interaction
- Enables consideration of comfort, cost, durability and efficiency
- Helps make wise trade-offs among options available



# Building Science Definition

*A.K.A. building physics or building dynamics*

- ▶ The study of the interaction between
  - Occupants
  - Building components/systems, and
  - Environment
- ▶ Focusing on flows of
  - Heat
  - Air
  - Moisture



# Occupant Focus

- ▶ **Comfort issues**
  - Even temperatures, no drafts
  - Healthy humidity levels (winter and summer)
  - Mold and other allergens
- ▶ **Cost issues**
  - Remodeling project
  - Energy, maintenance and repair costs



# Heat, Air, and Moisture Flows in Houses

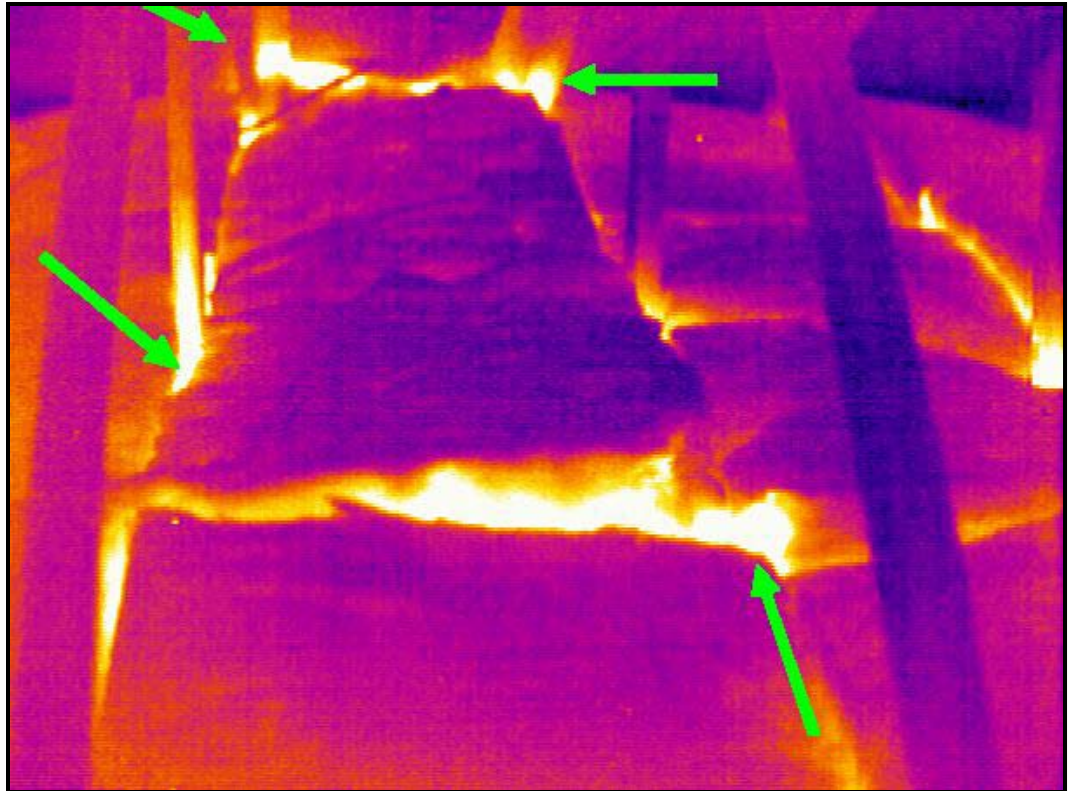
- ▶ Heat moves from **hot** → **cold**
- ▶ Air moves from **higher** → **lower** pressure
- ▶ Moisture moves from **wetter** → **drier** areas





# Heat Flow

- Conduction
- Convection
- Radiation



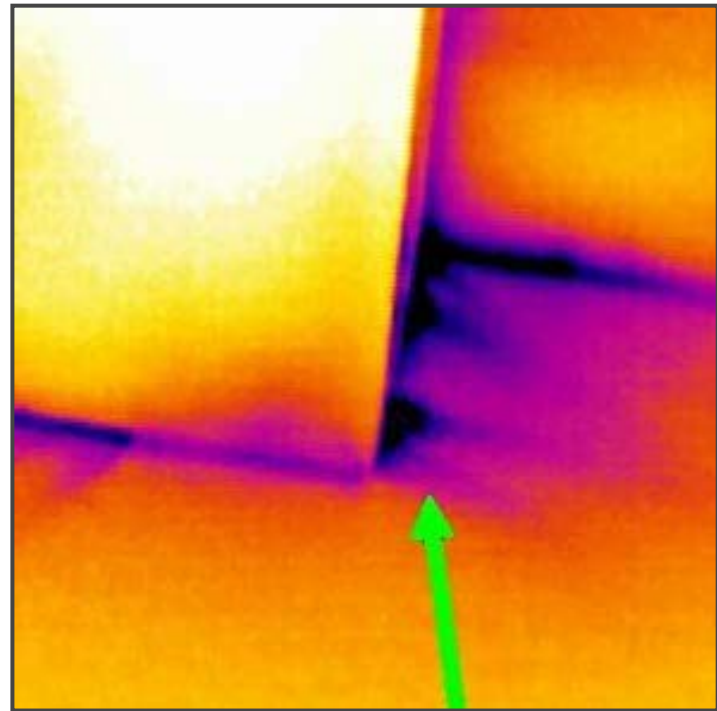
# Heat Flow: Conduction

- ▶ Heat flowing through a solid material (insulation slows conduction)



# Heat Flow: Convection

The transfer of heat by the movement of air  
(air barriers slow convection)





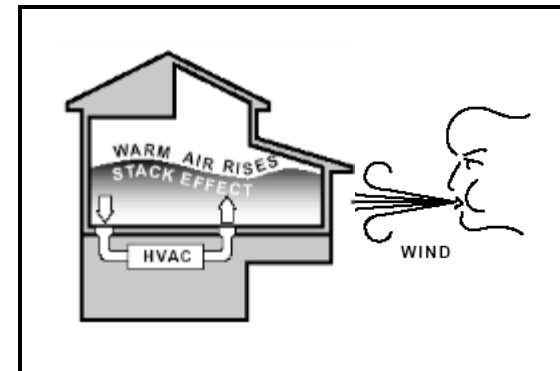
# Heat Flow: Radiation

The movement of heat from a hot to a cold surface with nothing in between



# Air Movement and Infiltration

- ▶ Conditions for air infiltration
  - Pressure difference (high to low)
  - Penetrations in building envelope (holes and cracks)
- ▶ Driving forces
  - Temperature difference (stack effect)
  - Wind
  - Mechanical systems



# Moisture Flow in Buildings

Moisture flows in two forms:

LIQUID

Bulk

Capillary

VAPOR

Diffusion

Infiltration

# Encountering Bulk Moisture



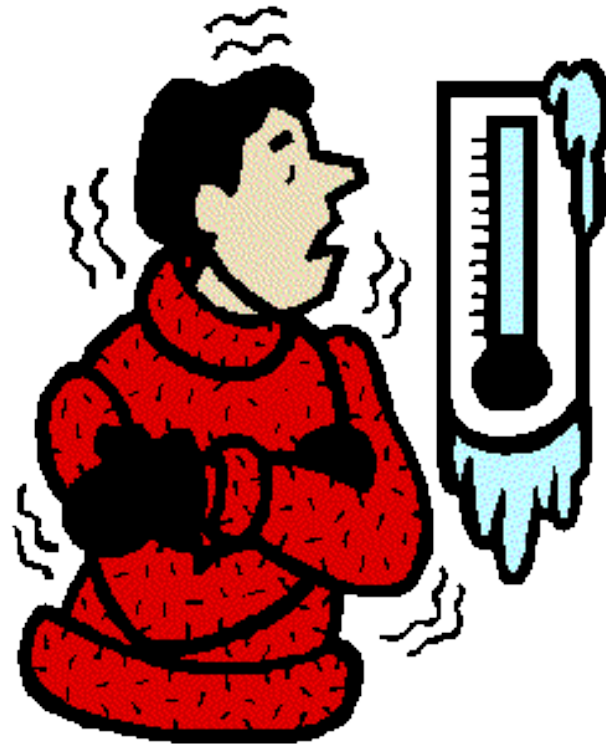


# Encountering Water Vapor




# Impact of Environment on Home and Occupants

- ▶ Factors affecting human comfort
  - Temperature
  - Relative humidity
  - Precipitation
  - Wind
  - Solar radiation

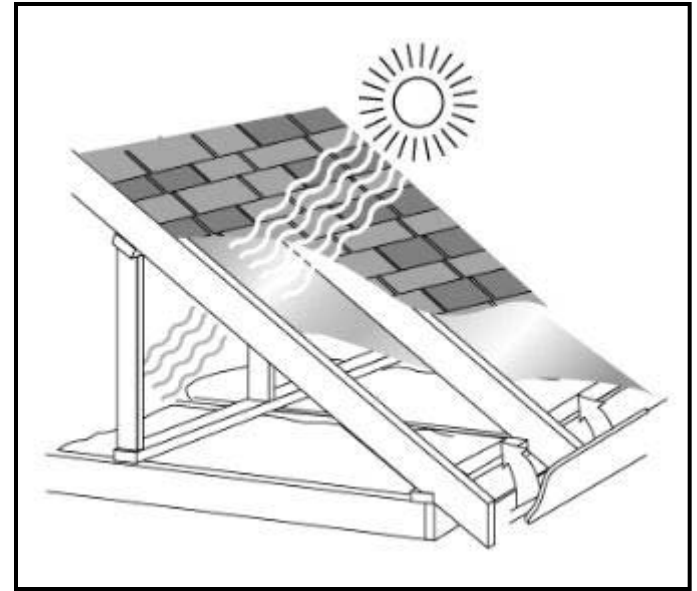


# Strategies to Control Radiation (heat) Gain

- Radiant barrier in attic
  - Low-E windows
  - Infrared-reflective roofing
  - Shading devices
  - Roof overhangs
- 

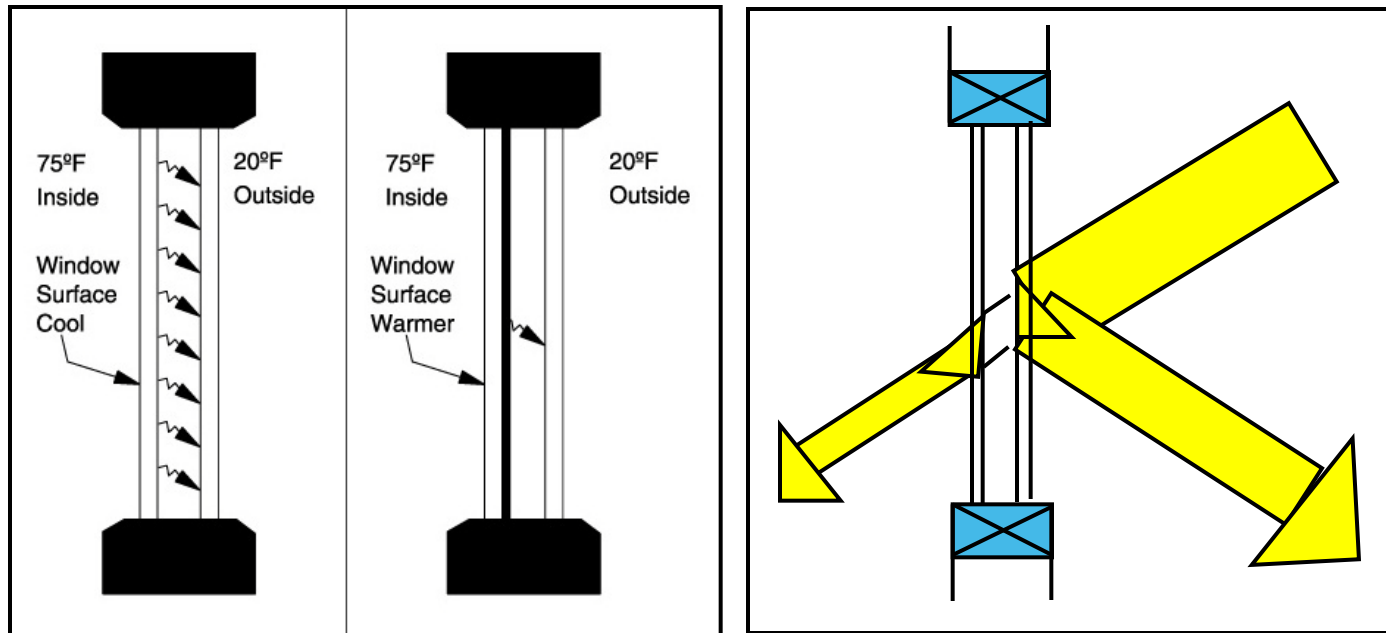
# Controlling Radiation

## Radiant Barriers



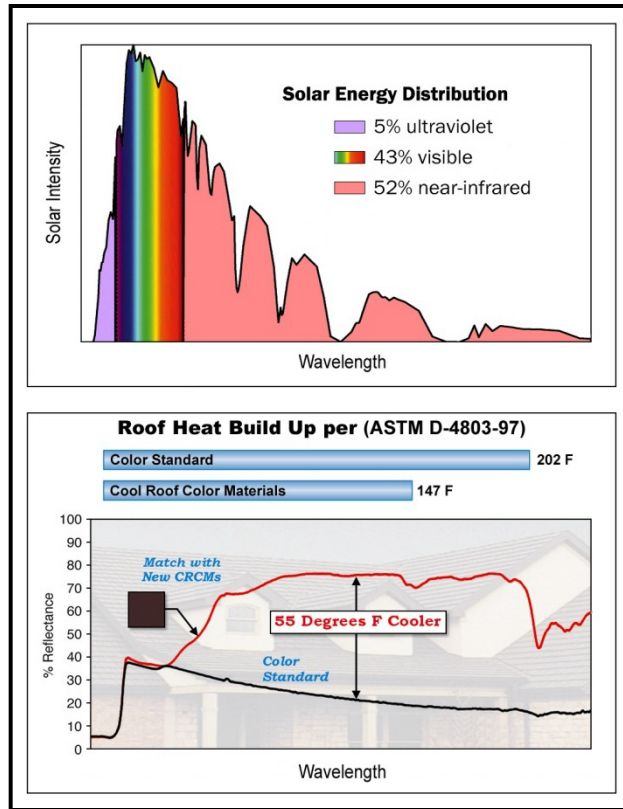


# Controlling Radiation Low-E Windows




A low-E window optimized for summer would likely have the coating on the outer pane's inside surface

# Controlling Radiation IR Reflective Roofing

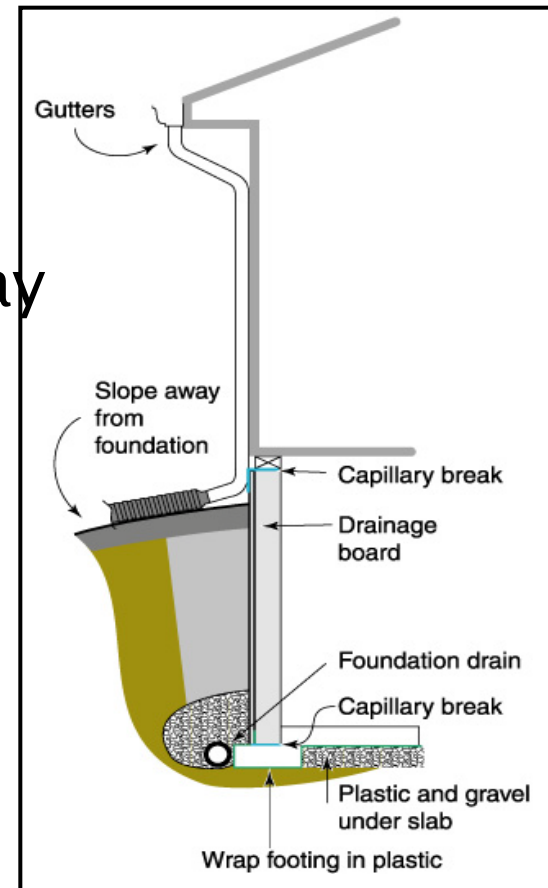


# Strategies to Control Moisture Flow

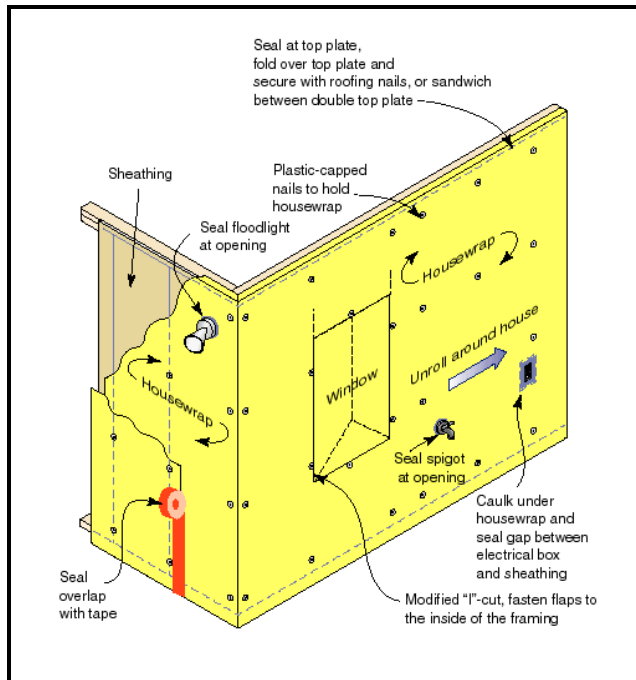
- Bulk moisture at foundations
  - Bulk and vapor moisture at walls
  - Bulk moisture at window flashing
  - Bulk moisture through design
  - Vapor moisture with material's permeability
- 

# Bulk Moisture Control Foundations

- Proper site drainage
- Foundation waterproofing
- Plastic ground cover
- Gutters channel water away from foundation



# Bulk and Vapor Moisture Walls (House wrap Weather Barrier)





# Bulk Moisture Control Walls – House wrap Details



**Top Sash after  
trim removed**

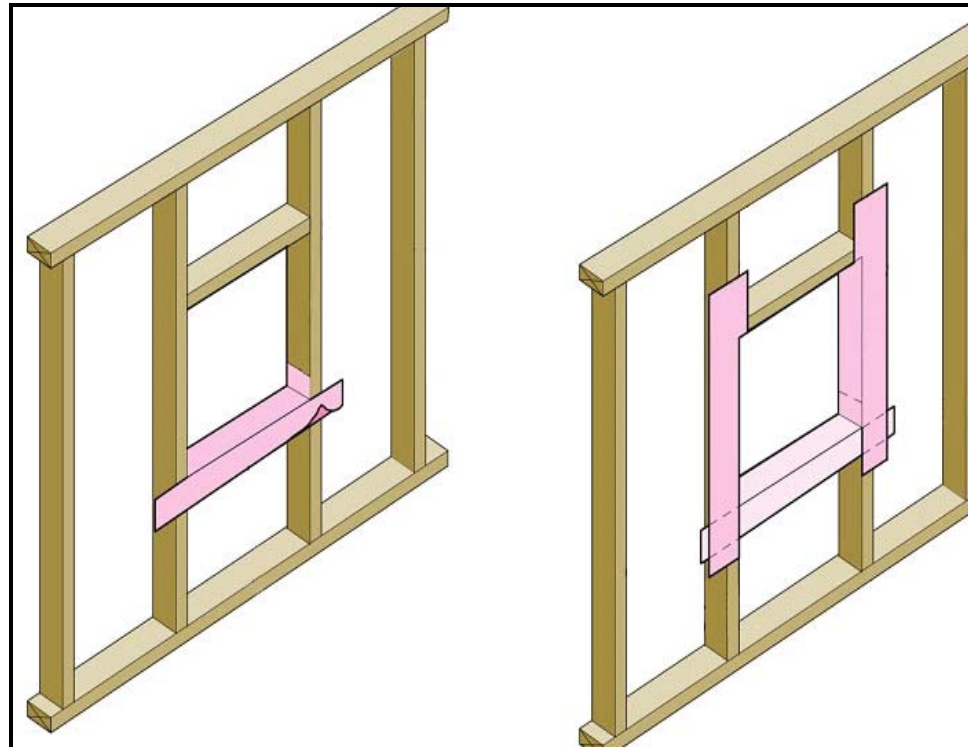


**Rotten Header**



**Windows (incorrectly) have  
flange over house wrap**

# Bulk Moisture Control Walls – Window Flashing



# Bulk Moisture Control By House Design





# Building Science Diagnostic Tools

- Blower door testing
- Duct pressure testing
- Duct flow testing
- Infrared imaging
- Pressure differential testing

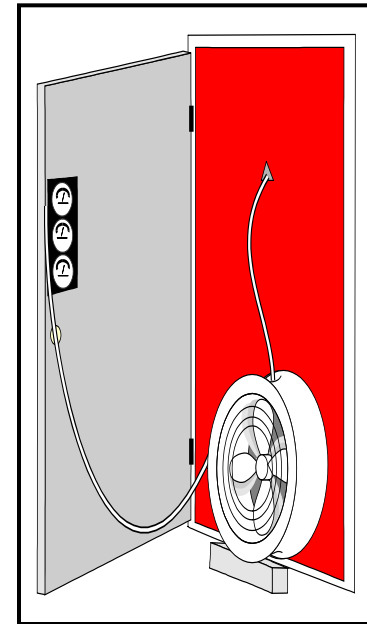


# Diagnostic Tool: Blower Door Testing

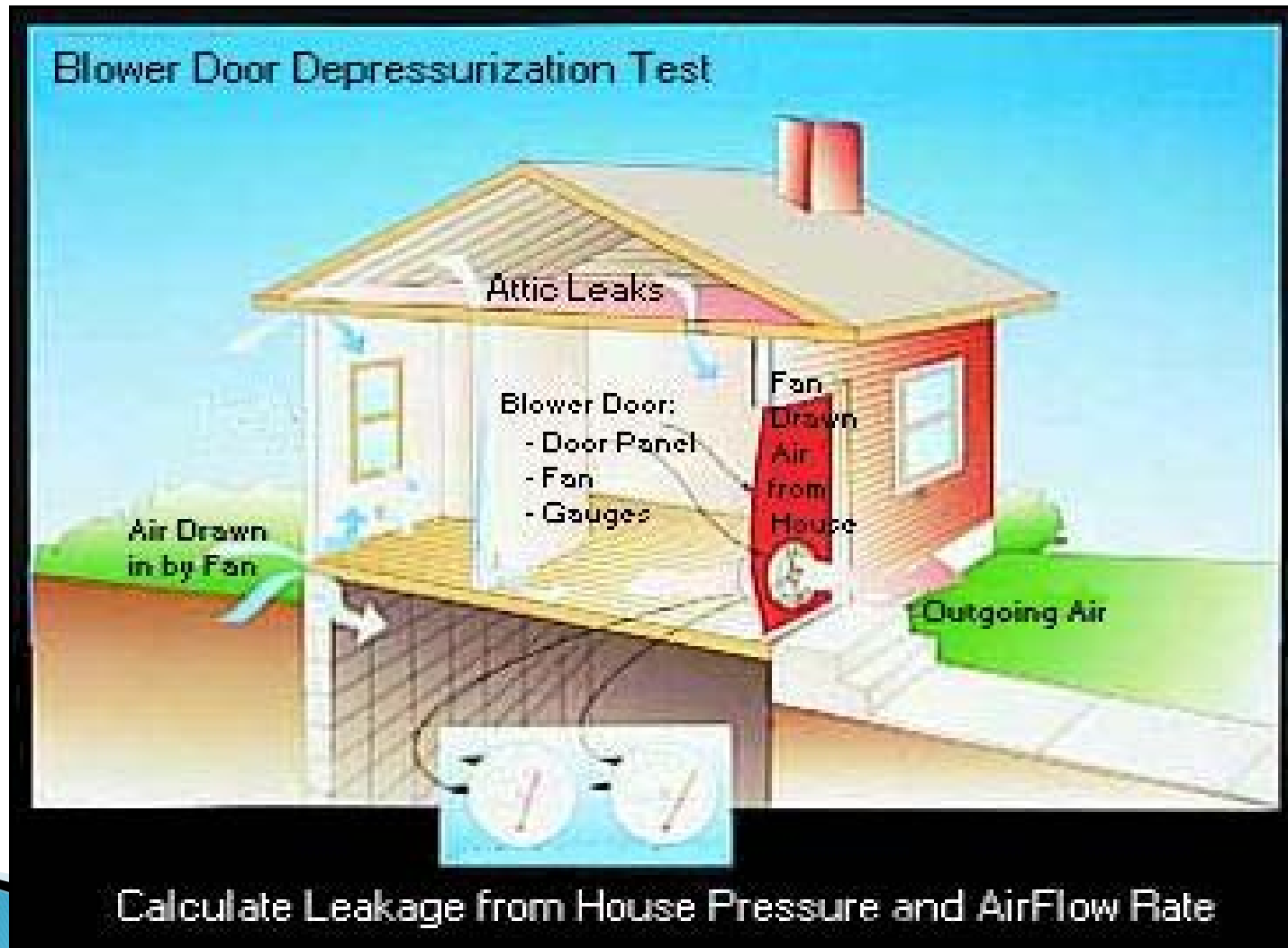


# Blower Door Testing

- Provides a measurement of the actual infiltration rate
- One tested home can be compared to another
- Helps identify leak paths

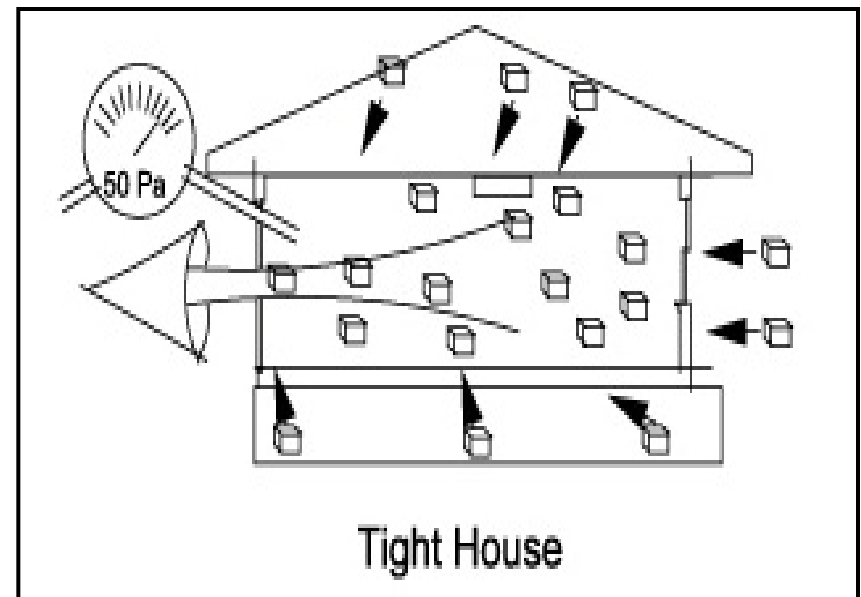
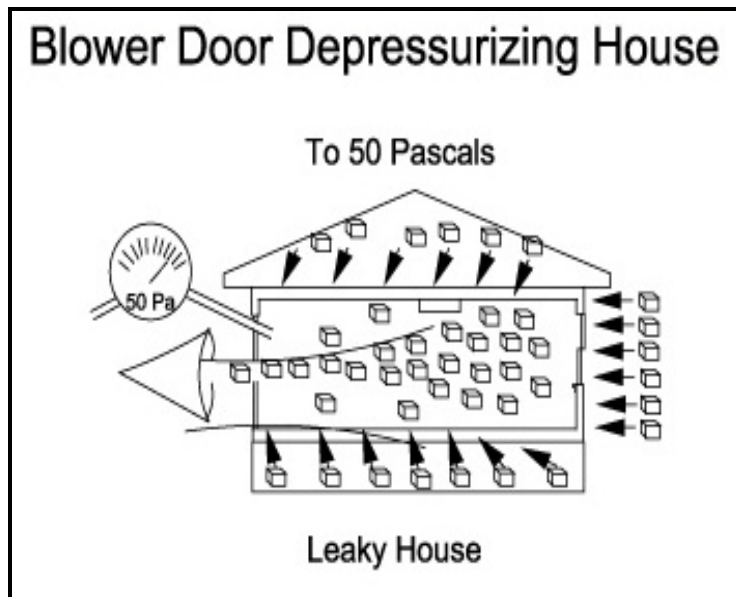


# Blower Door Testing



# Blower Door Testing

## Tight vs. Leaky House



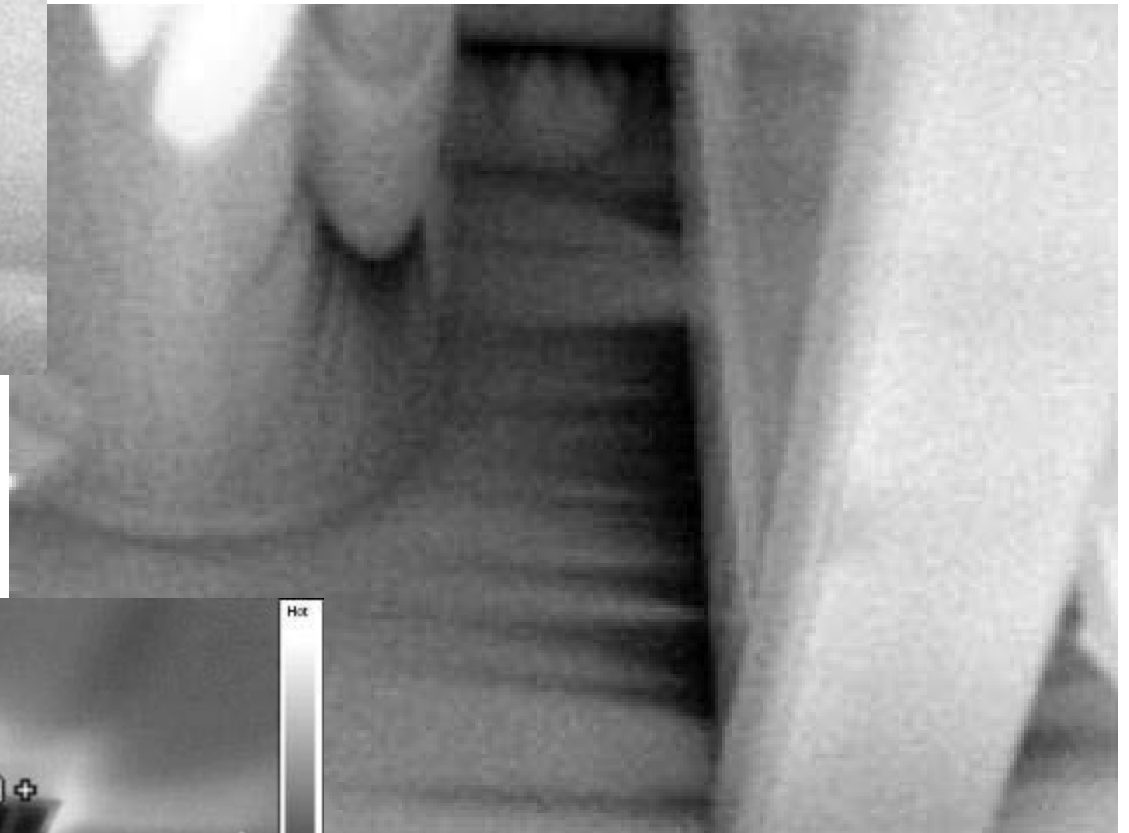
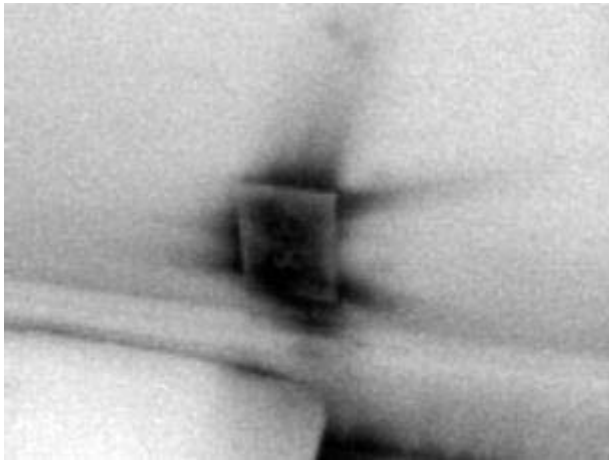
# Duct Pressure Testing

Pressure test finds leaks and estimates air flow





# Infrared Imaging



# CO testing

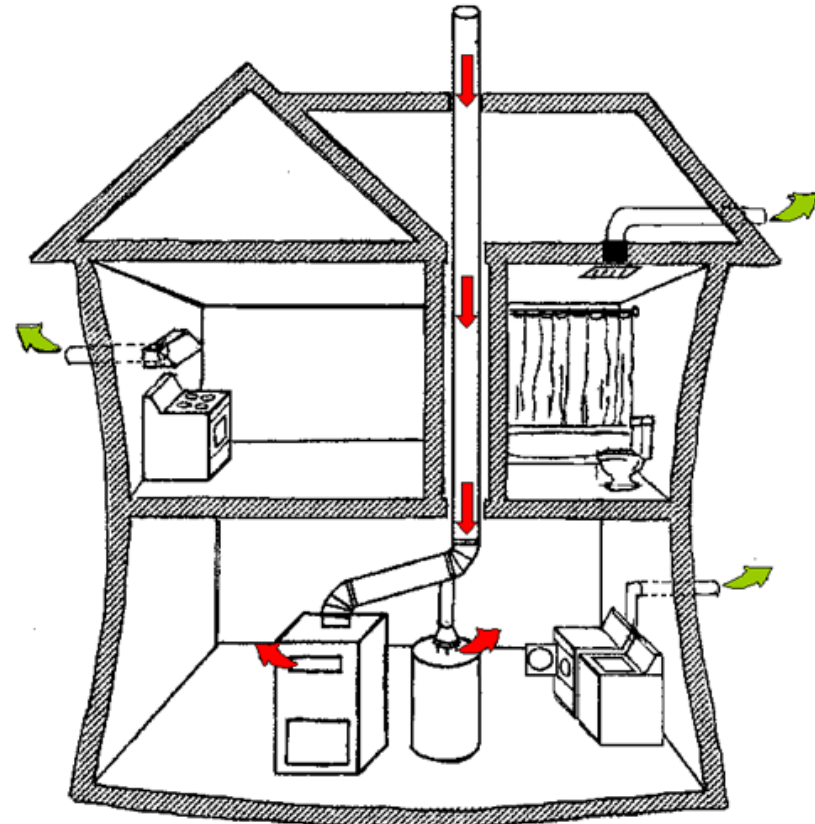




# Dangers of Carbon Monoxide (CO)

<b>PPM CO</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Symptoms</b>
35	8 hours	Maximum exposure allowed by OSHA in the workplace over an eight hour period.
200	2-3 hours	Mild headache, fatigue, nausea and dizziness.
400	1-2 hours	Serious headache-other symptoms intensify. Life threatening after 3 hours.
800	45 minutes	Dizziness, nausea and convulsions. Unconscious within 2 hours. Death within 2-3 hours.
1600	20 minutes	Headache, dizziness and nausea. Death within 1 hour.
3200	5-10 minutes	Headache, dizziness and nausea. Death within 1 hour.
6400	1-2 minutes	Headache, dizziness and nausea. Death within 25-30 minutes.
12,800	1-3 minutes	Death

# “Worst-Case-Scenario” CO testing



# Did you know that...

Installing this...



...could lead to this?




# Summary

- Building science studies the interaction between occupants, building components and systems, and the environment by focusing on flows of heat and air
- Use building science to help you improve the performance (cost, comfort, durability, and efficiency) of homes
- Diagnostic tools will help you understand how and why your project is performing as it is

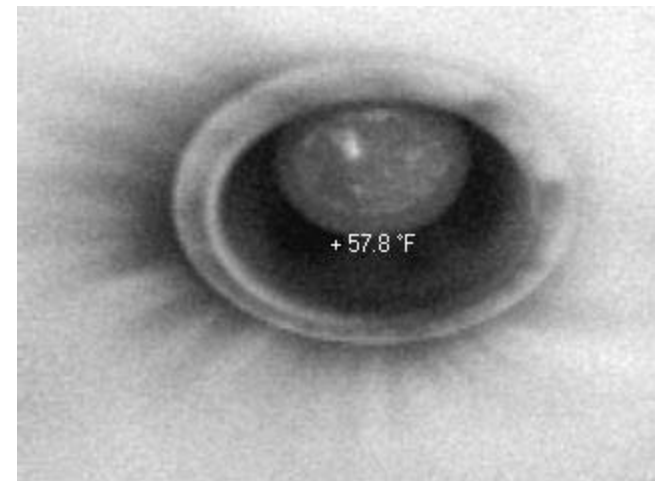
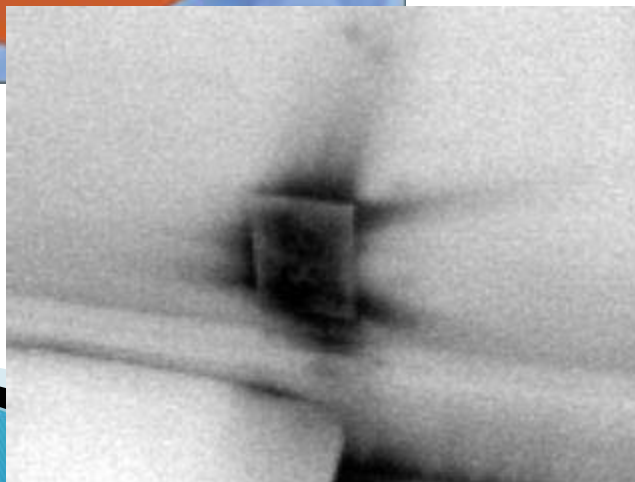
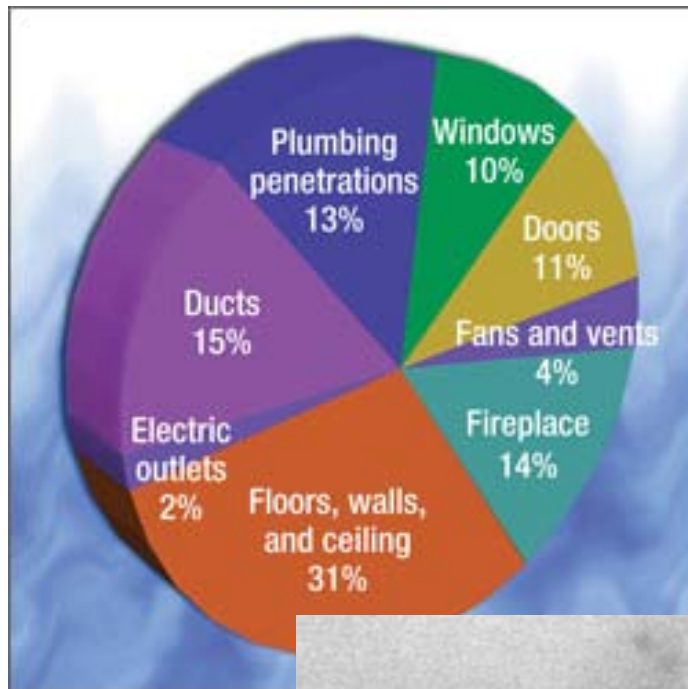
# Air Sealing

## Strategies to Control Air Flow:

- Block infiltration and convection pathways to attics and crawlspaces
  - Seal leaky joints in walls, floors and ceilings
  - Seal attic scuttles
  - Seal ductwork in unconditioned space
  - Repair/Replace leaky doors and windows
  - Balance pressures within house
- 



# Areas of air infiltration



# Air Flow Examples Pathways in Attics



# Air Flow Examples Pathways in Knee walls





# Air Sealing after Drywall



- Outlets to drywall
- Fixtures to drywall (recessed lights airtight + IC-rated)
- Boots to drywall
- Attic stairs to drywall



# Attic Air Sealing after Drywall





# Air Sealing after Drywall

- ▶ Attic scuttle holes must seal tight – requires weather-stripping



# Controlling Air Flow Windows and Doors

Seal rough openings with caulk, backer rod or expanding foam



# Can A Home Be Too Tight?

**MYTH** - “Sealing air leaks is a cause of indoor air quality problems”

**FACT** - Any home can have air quality problems



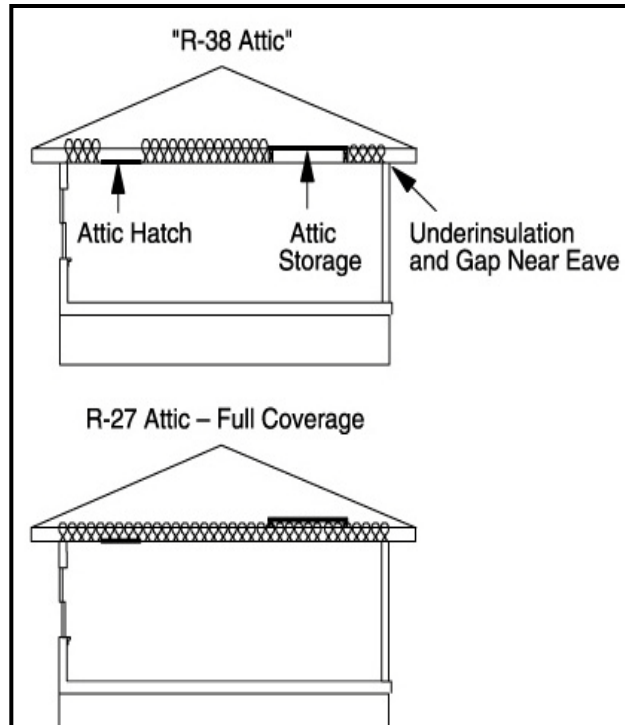
Sealing air leaks can help keep pollutants out

The **best strategy** is to use non-polluting building materials and household products, and provide **CONTROLLED** mechanical **Ventilation**

# Insulate to Reduce Conduction



# Installing Insulation Correctly is the key!



R-38 installed with 5% gaps or uninsulated areas yields the same heat loss as R-27 with full coverage - a 30% reduction!

*1000 s.f of Attic*

*950 s.f. is R-38*

*50 s.f. is R-4*

$$R_{\text{avg}} = \frac{R_1 \times A_1 + R_2 \times A_2}{A_{\text{Total}}}$$



A+



# Alternate Insulation Blown Cellulose



# Insulation Remediation



# Insulation Remediation





# Insulation Remediation





# Alternate Insulation Spray-applied Foam



# The Myth of Focusing on Insulation

- ▶ **Myth:** To improve the energy efficiency of a home, just add more insulation!



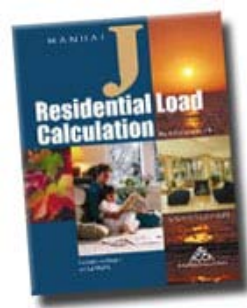
- ▶ **Energy Fact:** Reducing air infiltration can improve energy efficiency more than insulation.

# Tradeoffs: Increased Insulation vs. Reduced Air Leakage

	Annual Utility Bill Savings	
	ACH .80→.40	Attic Insul. R-11→R-38
Ft. Worth, TX	\$162	\$73
Raleigh, NC	\$177	\$83
Syracuse, NY	\$394	\$248

# HVAC Systems

## 1<sup>st</sup> step: Design Conditions

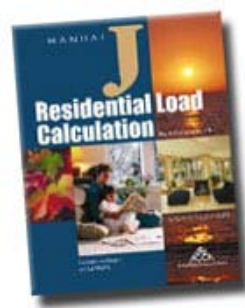


I must know what I am dealing with so, I calculate the Heat Load (using Manual J) on my home by analyzing:

- my **climate** specifics
- my home's design and **construction** (sf, volume, walls, roof, floor, insulation level, leakage rate, # of occupants, etc.)
- my comfort “**design temperature**”
- I use **ACCA Manual J** methodology for this

# HVAC Systems

## 1<sup>st</sup> step: Determining Loads



I Calculate the home's Heating & Cooling Load to see how many Btu's of heating & cooling I'll need to hold my home at the summer and winter design temperatures

**In all codes since 1983, yet done very little.**

### *Equipment Sizing*

§150(h)

The Standards do not set limits on the sizing of heating equipment, but they do require that heating loads be calculated for new heating systems. Oversized equipment typically operates less efficiently and can create comfort problems due to excessive cycling and high airflow.

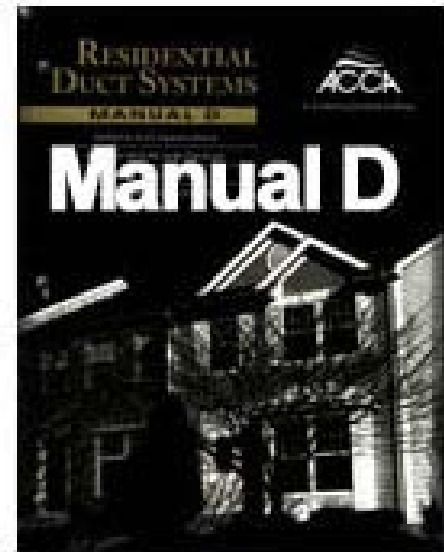
Acceptable load calculation procedures include methods described in the ASHRAE Handbook – Equipment, ASHRAE Handbook – Applications, ASHRAE Handbook – Fundamentals, SMACNA Residential Comfort System Installation Manual, or ACCA Manual J.



# HVAC Systems

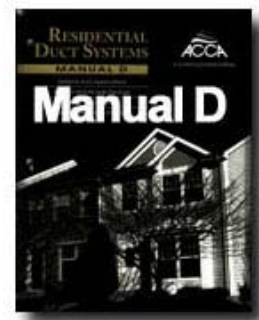
## 2nd step: Duct Design

- Now, I know my home's heat load
- Next, I design my **duct system**
- For this, I use **ACCA Manual D** (distribution/duct)



# HVAC Systems

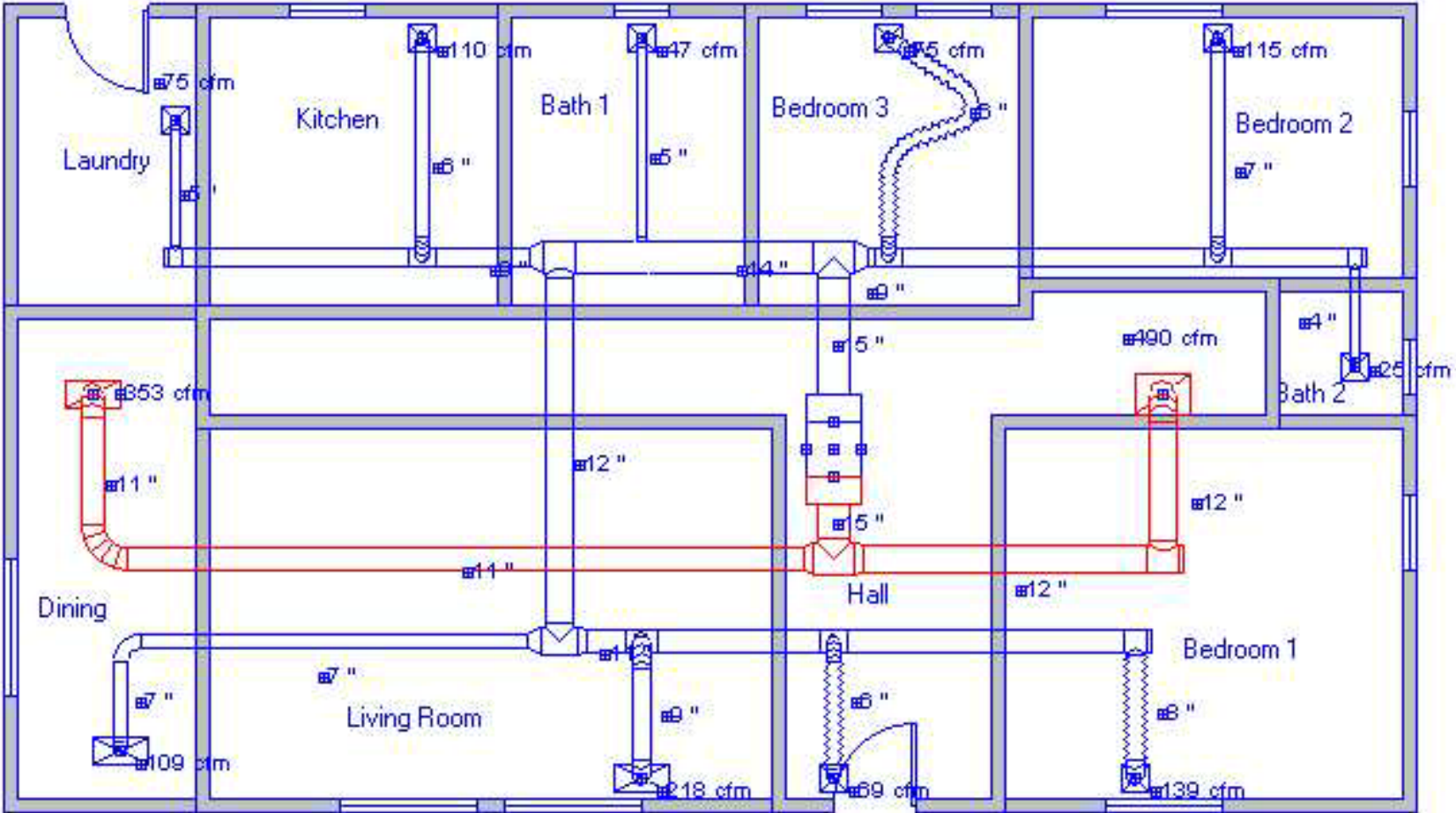
## 2nd step: Duct Design



- I plan on how much air I need in the home and individual rooms to maintain my desired design temperature
- I look at my **duct layout**, size of ducts, duct insulation, types and placement of registers, and air flow and pressures
- I make adjustments and end up with a designed system that will **effectively distribute** air in my home

# HVAC Systems

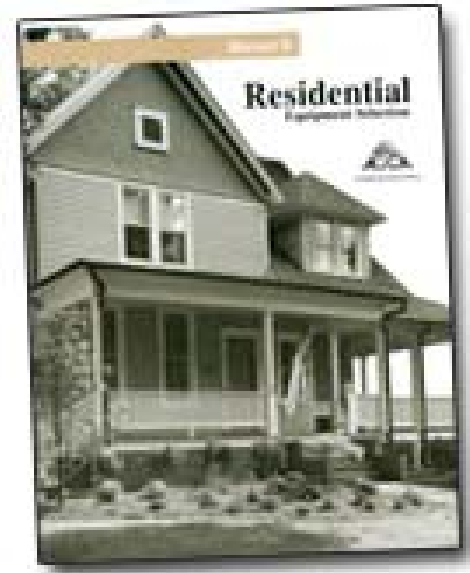
## 2nd step: Duct Design



# HVAC Systems

## 3rd step: Equipment Selection

- Now, I know my home's heat load and the design of my duct system
- Next, I find heating and cooling **equipment** that fits my home's load and distribution system
- For this, I use **ACCA Manual S**



# HVAC Equipment Location

Ideally equipment is installed–

- close to the delivery location
- not in a Cold/Hot attic or on roof
- In “conditioned” space if possible





# Furnace – Installation

Confirm the Following:

- **Efficient Combustion**; adjusting gas valve gas pressures for the most efficient burn and proper BTU content
- Adjust fan speed to **match the Manual J/D** duct design total CFM
- Measure **Temperature Rise** and **Static Pressure** and compare to manufacture specifications



# HVAC Testing

- ▶ Assessing HVAC systems for performance is essential in any energy upgrade
  - Age of system
  - Equipment Efficiency
  - Duct Tightness/Effectiveness





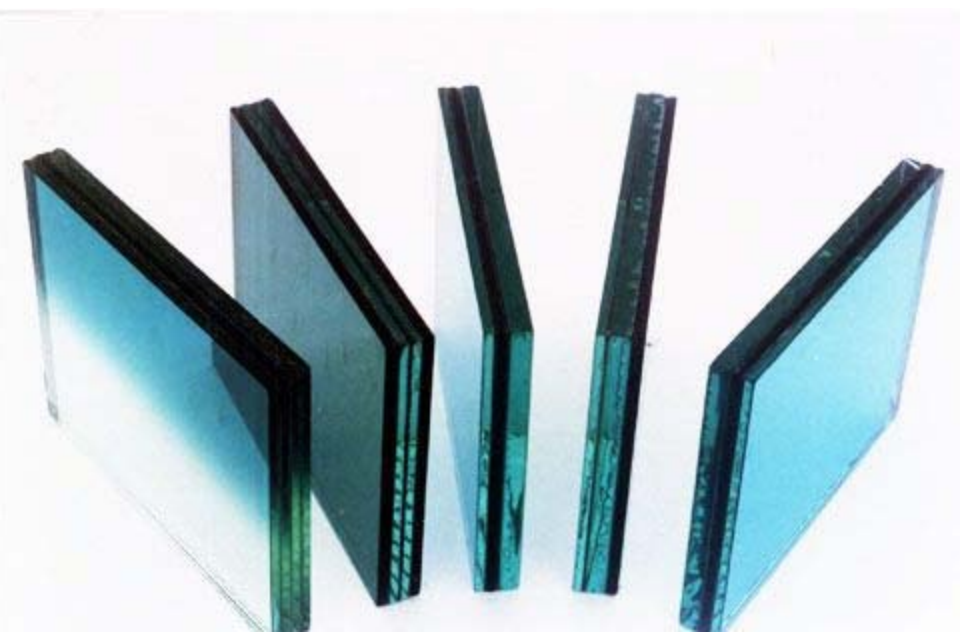
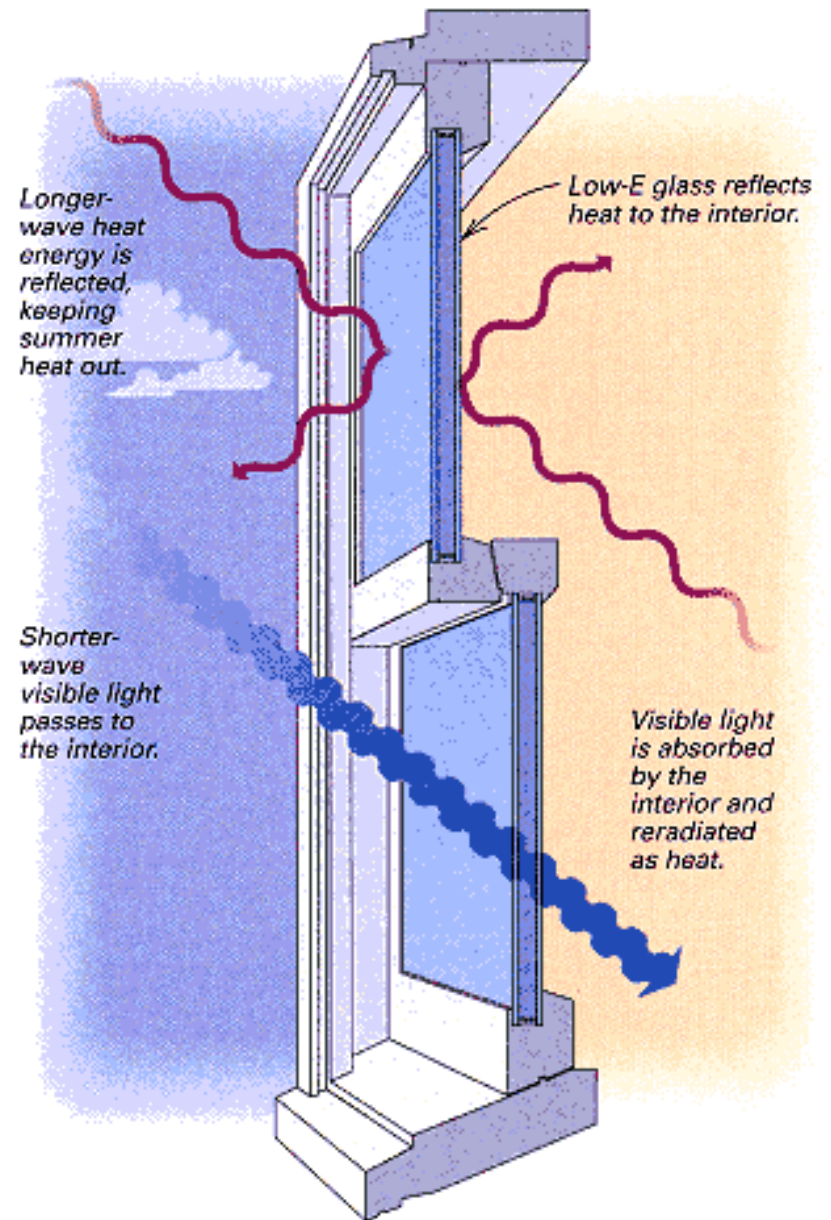
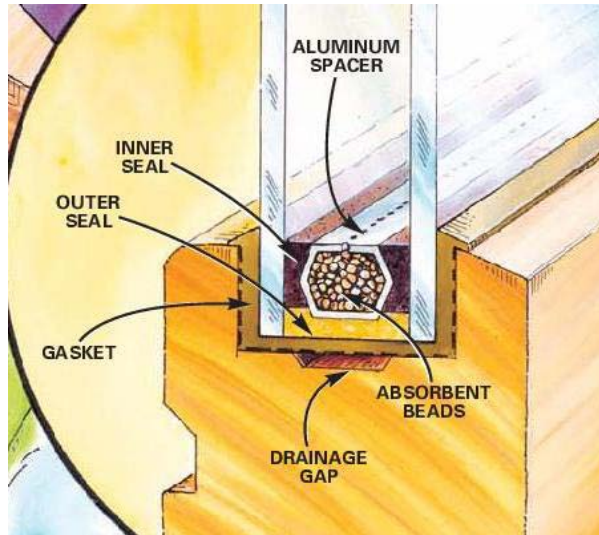
Attaching to a ceiling return.



Attached to a wall return.



# Windows



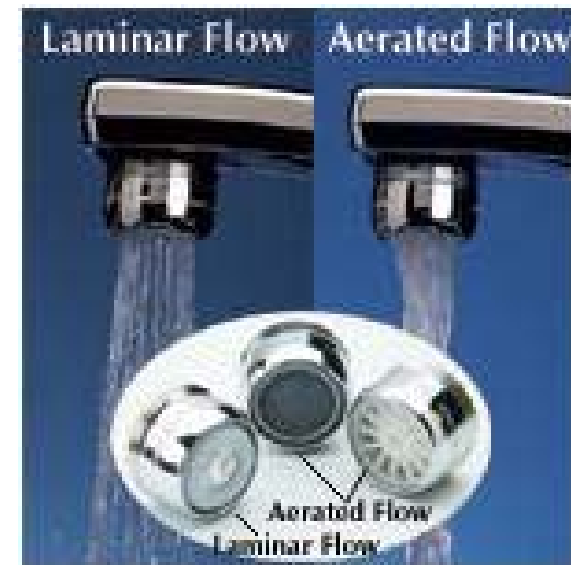
# Reducing Loads (Energy Use)

- ▶ Tightening the air barrier is the most cost-effective in most climates
  - Air Sealing
  - Repair/Replace poor performing windows/doors
- ▶ Improve Thermal Boundary (insulation layer)
  - Air seal first, then increase R-Value
  - Make sure thermal layer is in contact with air barrier
- ▶ Size HVAC AFTER improvements/measurements have been made
  - Smaller equip? Consider combined-hydronics
  - Ensure occupant comfort/IAQ
- ▶ Assess all energy consuming systems
  - Lighting/Appliances
  - Landscape/ Pools/Pumps
  - Phantom Loads



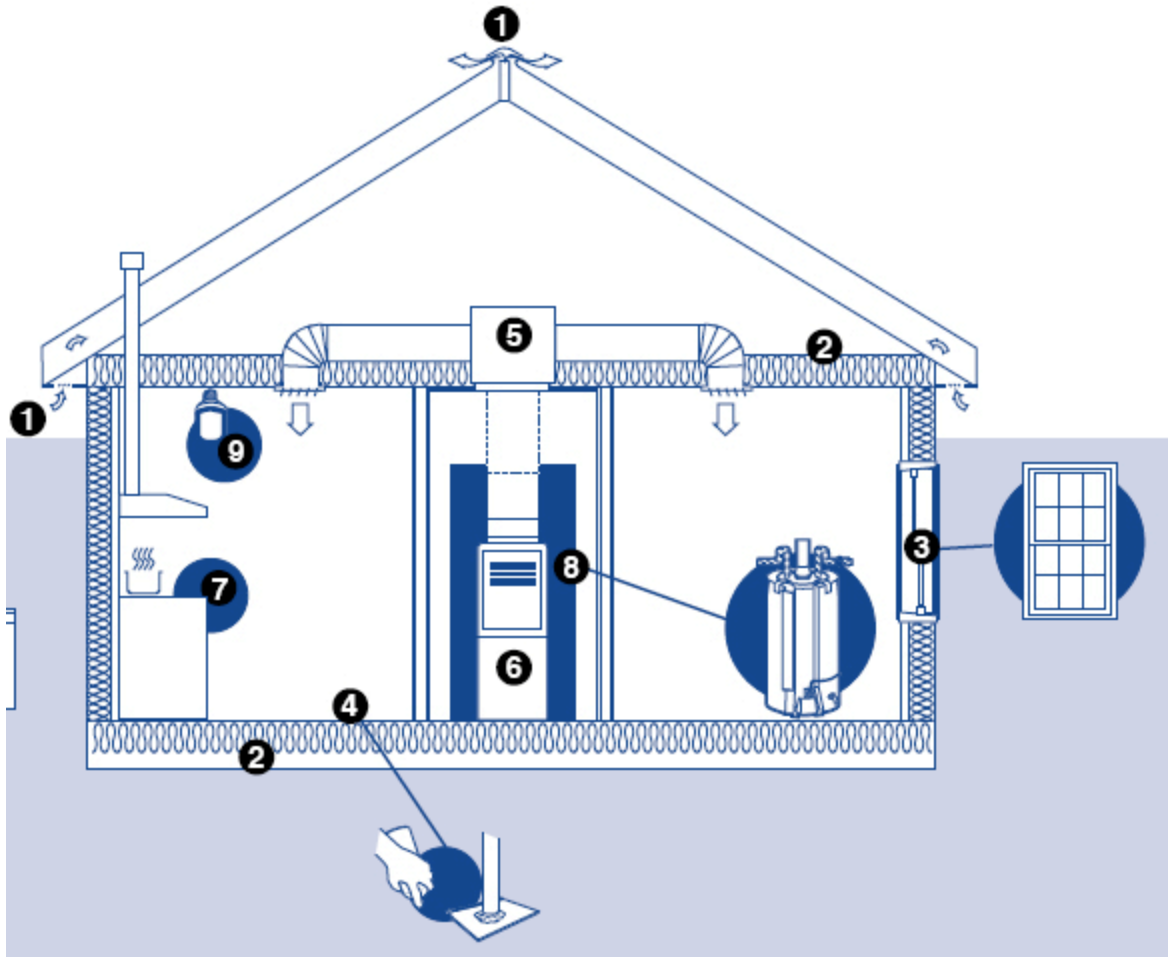
# Occupant Behavior and Energy Use

- ▶ While comfort is very important, the emphasis here is on energy savings.
- ▶ Care should be taken to educate the homeowners as to the impacts of their behavior.



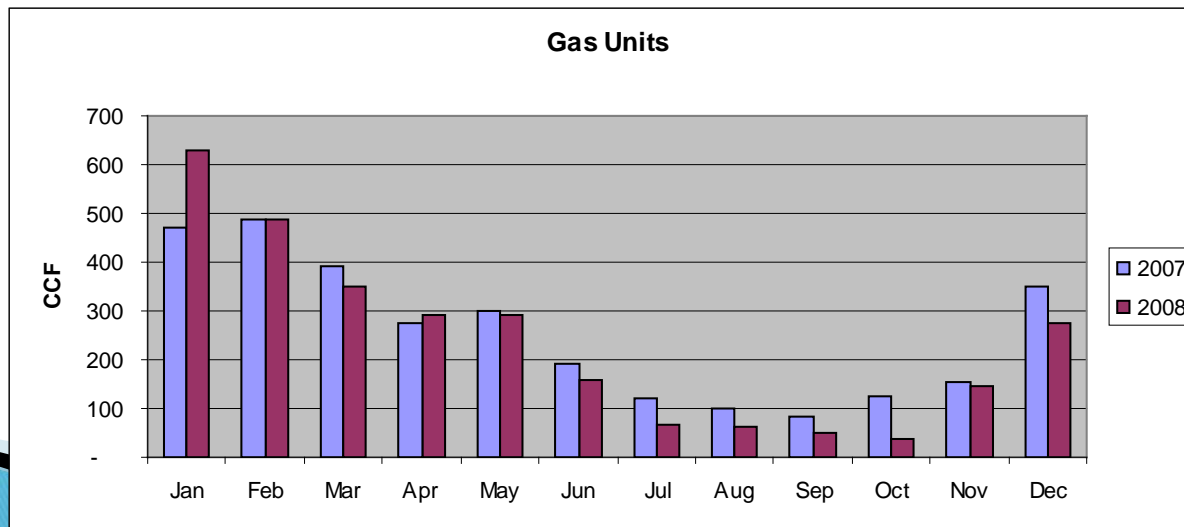
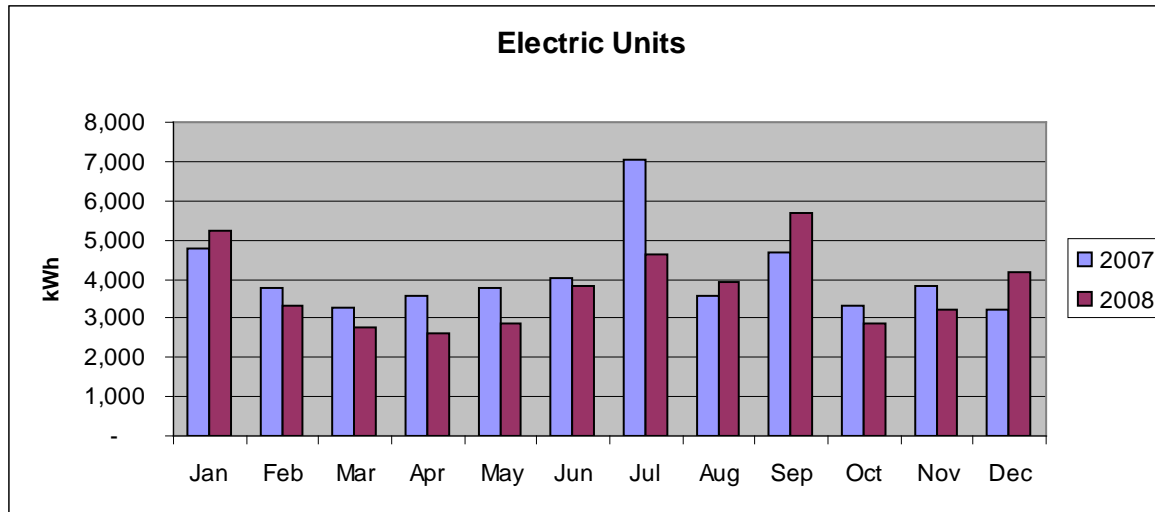
# The House as a System

# Many Parts make up the Whole



1. Roof ventilation
2. Insulation / Thermal Boundary
3. Fenestration
4. Radon Protection
5. Ducted air distribution system
6. Air Handler / Furnace
7. Appliances
8. Water Heating
9. Lighting

# Energy Analysis



# Why Evaluate the House as a System?

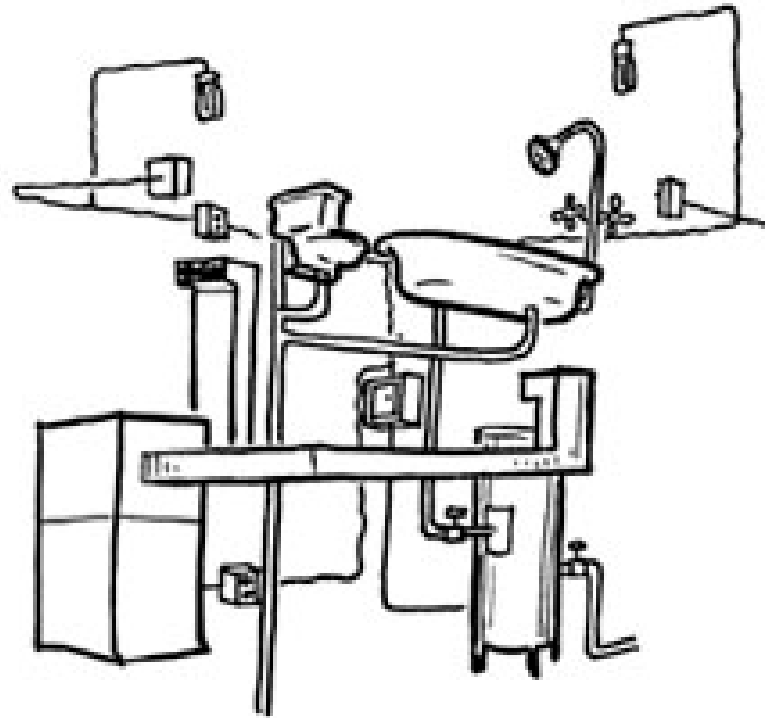
- To improve home performance
- To improve living environment
- To make the right recommendations
- To optimize choices





# Consider the Interactions Between

- Building envelope
- Heating and cooling
- Landscaping
- Climate
- Homeowner behavior
- Home design



# Example of a Systems Evaluation

- ▶ An oversized exhaust fan in a kitchen can draw so much air out of the home that it causes the gas fireplace to back-draft, potentially leading to dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.



# Key Concepts

- ▶ **Evaluate each project as part of a system to**
  - Improve home performance
  - Improve homeowner comfort
  - Avoid making mistakes
  - Decrease risk of litigation
  - Provide best overall value

# Loading Order/Scope of Work\*

- ▶ Envelope
  - Air sealing
  - Roof/attic insulation
  - Wall insulation
  - Floor insulation
  - Cool roof/radiant barrier
  - Windows/Doors
- ▶ Heating and Cooling
  - Heating and Cooling equipment replacement
  - Duct sealing and insulation
- ▶ Water Heating
  - Water heating equipment replacement
  - Recirculation controls
  - Solar hot water
- ▶ Appliances
  - Indoor and outdoor lighting (hardwired)
  - Refrigerators and dishwashers

*\*Measures based on what can be modeled in HERS II software.*

# Cost Effectiveness

Factors that can affect cost effectiveness:

- ▶ Energy Savings:
  - Climate
  - Local energy costs (utility rates)
  - Occupant behavior
  - Other work being done to house
  - Subsequent energy measures added to home
  - Actual life of upgraded features



# Cost Effectiveness

- ▶ **Computer** software (such as CalRatePro) can be used to help determine cost effectiveness.
- ▶ The program calculates the “estimated” energy savings of an energy upgrade (or package of upgrades).
- ▶ While these calculations are very precise, they can not predict actual weather or occupant behavior.




# Cost Effectiveness

Some features, while cost effective on paper, may not be practical in **reality**.

- ▶ For example:
  - Sealing ducts in a home where most of the ducts are not accessible will not result in the expected savings.
  - A home with no accessible attic will be difficult, if not impossible to add ceiling insulation to.
- ▶ The **practicality** of the upgrade must also be assessed by the auditor.
- ▶ This will usually be reflected in the bids by the contractors, but it helps to do it **up front**.

# Loading Order

- ▶ There are some general **rules of thumb** for choosing which energy features to do first.
  - ▶ These are **in addition to** cost effectiveness evaluation and may sometimes override cost effectiveness in the decision making process.
- 

# Loading Order

## Safety should always come first.

- ▶ Some energy upgrades can create health and safety **problems**.
  - Reducing infiltration can cause a buildup of indoor air pollutants if ventilation is not adequate.
  - Adding ceiling insulation can sometimes create a fire hazard if there are non-IC rated recessed can lights or exposed wires in the attic.

# Loading Order

It is a general rule of thumb that you should improve the **shell** of the building **before** you improve the HVAC system.

- ▶ It is often the case that improving the shell can dramatically reduce the heating and cooling **loads**.
- ▶ This allows the home owner to install ***smaller*** equipment while still being more comfortable and using less energy.



# Loading Order

Insulation doesn't work if **air** is moving through or around it.

- ▶ Insulation upgrades should always be done in conjunction with **air sealing**.
- ▶ Insulation should always be in good contact with an **air barrier**, such as drywall.

# Loading Order

Duct leakage is a **much** worse problem than people realize.

- ▶ Duct sealing or replacement should always be done whenever HVAC equipment is upgraded.
- ▶ In fact, the Title 24 energy codes require this in most climate zones.
- ▶ For more information on this requirement, see: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/title24/changeout/index.html>

# Priorities for Energy Efficiency

Very expensive energy upgrades require more **careful** evaluation.

- ▶ More is at stake
- ▶ A small percent error in either direction results in a **bigger** absolute change in cost or savings.
- ▶ Sometimes it is better to spend money on **several** less expensive features than one big, expensive one.

# Post Upgrade

Occupant behavior can sometimes change **after** an energy upgrade has been done.

- ▶ This can sometimes **negate** the energy savings.
- ▶ Energy upgrades should always be accompanied by occupant **education**.

# Pre/Post Testing

Diagnostic testing of energy features results in much more **accurate** assessments of energy savings.




- ▶ This includes features that are dependent upon the overall quality of the component in question, such as **duct leakage** and **infiltration**



# Value-add benefits

By performing diagnostic testing-in and testing-out we verify to ourselves and our clients that improvements have been installed, tested, measured, and verified for:

- ▶ Optimized energy savings
  - ▶ Comfort
  - ▶ IAQ
  - ▶ Durability
- 

# Additional Homeowner Benefits

- ▶ Work with “qualified” professionals
- ▶ Get results from investment in multiple areas including:
  - Improved Energy Efficiency
  - Improved Indoor Air Quality
  - More Comfortable Living Environment
  - Enhanced Value of Property
  - Reduce Carbon Footprint
- ▶ Receive a Home Energy Efficiency rating that shows how well the home can perform.

# The Upgrade Team

- ▶ The *Building Science Professional*
- ▶ The *Rater*
- ▶ The *Contractor*



# The Upgrade Team

- ▶ The *Building Science Professional*
  - BPI certified to be able to perform audits/assessments on homes for combustion safety, health, IAQ
  - Can/Is brought in as needed for CO testing (during weatherization)
  - Can offer building science input on upgrade opportunities

# Building Science Professional

- ▶ Typically these individuals have sought out credentials that “prove” their expertise
- ▶ It is common for these folks to have multiple credentials including:
  - BPI: B/A, E, H, A/C, MF, ALC
  - HERS: Compliance, WH, BPC Rater
  - CEPE, CEA (Energy Consultant)
  - LEED, GreenPoint Rater
  - Etc.
- ▶ Can be utilized in the “Consultant” model to avoid costs associated with trainings and equipment



# The Upgrade Team

- ▶ The *Rater*:
  - Audits/assesses home for energy upgrade potential
  - Energy modeler (CalRate Pro)
  - Rater (is typically) independent from the contractor
  - Conducts compliance rating/verifications (T24)
  - Provider of building energy score (HERS Score/Rating)

# HERS Raters

- ▶ The *Rater* :
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Party auditor or ‘assessor’ (Whole House Raters)
  - Energy modeler
  - Third-party verification agent
  - Provider of home energy score
- ▶ Rater is independent from the contractor
  - At minimum to perform the post-retrofit verification
  - Contractor may perform assessment if they have met program training requirements (HERS BPC)

# Rater Classifications

## *Compliance Rater –*

- ▶ Performs field verification and diagnostic testing (FV/DT) for Title 24.
- ▶ Assist local code enforcement agencies in enforcing certain parts of the Energy Codes.
- ▶ Referred to by Title 20 as a *California Field Verification and Diagnostic Testing Rater..*

# Rater Classifications

## *Whole House Rater –*

- ▶ This is classification of HERS raters focuses on existing housing stock .
- ▶ Gathers information on the energy consuming features of a home,
- ▶ Performs diagnostic testing at the home,
- ▶ Simulates energy use and
- ▶ Performs an analysis for a whole house energy rating or audit.

# Rater Classifications

## *HERS BPC Rater*

- ▶ A Whole House Rater who works for a Class B General Contractor and who has been certified through an approved BPC program.
- ▶ WHR who also has BPI: B/A, E Certifications
- ▶ CalCERTS, Inc. is currently the only HERS Provider offering this credential
- ▶ Great balance of HERS & Building Science



# The Rater:

- ▶ Guide the owner to cost-effective, smart, and energy efficient choices
  - Recommend upgrade package
    - Energy and cost analysis
    - Unbiased by contractor's interests
- ▶ Assure owner that projected energy savings are realized
  - Energy Assessment Inspection
    - Verify existing home conditions
    - Set accurate baseline for improvements
  - Post-Retrofit Inspection
    - Verification of contractor's work

# Rater's Responsibilities

- ▶ Post-retrofit verification of all retrofit measures contributing to “x”% improvement over existing conditions
- ▶ Verify all measures listed in the ‘Notice to Proceed’ letter
  - Multiple inspections may be required if one or more of the retrofit measures will be inaccessible at retrofit completion
- ▶ Primarily visual inspections
  - Present (installed)
  - Specifications



- ▶ Diagnostic testing, as applicable per
  - Retrofit package
  - Title 24 requirements (e.g. HVAC change-out requires duct testing)

# Rater's Responsibilities

## Upgrade Recommendations:

- ▶ Once the building model has been verified, the Rater can begin evaluating energy upgrades.
- ▶ They should interview the homeowner carefully regarding what energy upgrades they would consider making.
- ▶ What is the overall scope of the renovation of the project? (e.g., will the roof be removed at some point allowing for improvement of ceiling insulation?)

# Rater's Responsibilities

## Upgrade Recommendations (continued)

- ▶ What is the overall scope of the renovation of the project?
  - Will the roof be removed at some point allowing for improvement of ceiling insulation?
  - Will sheet rock or siding be removed at some point allowing for access to the wall insulation and/or ducts?
  - Is replacing windows within the budget?
  - Is replacing HVAC feasible and within budget?
  - Is there room for solar water heating or PV?

# California Home Energy Rating Certificate

Poor  
Energy  
Performance

YOUR HOME

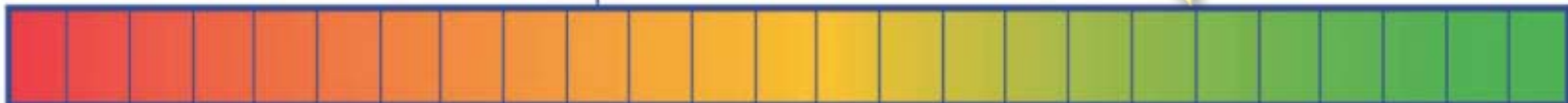


155

250 240 230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0



Best  
Energy  
Performance




Range for typical existing home 101-250

High Energy Efficiency / Solar Home

2008 Standards New Home

Net Zero Energy Home

<p>Information goes here on compliance with other programs:</p>	<p><b>Energy Impact</b></p> <p><b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b> Carbon Dioxide xxx tons/year</p> <p><b>Energy Consumption</b> Electricity (kWh/year) Cooling — Lights — Appliances — Total —</p> <p>Natural Gas (therms/year) Space Heating — Water Heating — Total —</p> <p><b>Operating Cost (\$/year)</b> Electricity — Gas — Total —</p> <p><b>Renewable Energy Production</b> None</p> <p><b>Ancillary Energy Uses</b> Swimming pool Spa Landscape lighting</p>	<p><b>Site Information</b></p> <p><b>Address</b> 123 Jones Street Anywhere, California 9410x</p> <p><b>General Information</b> Conditioned Floor Area 2,200 ft<sup>2</sup> Bedrooms 4 House Type Single Family Foundation Type Slab-on-Grade</p> <p><b>Energy Efficiency Features</b></p> <p><b>Insulation</b> Ceiling R-19 Wall R-11 Floor over crawlspace None Slab Edge None</p> <p><b>Windows</b> Frame Aluminum Glazing Single</p> <p><b>Heating System</b> Gas furnace, 0.80 AFUE Unsealed air distribution ducts</p> <p><b>Cooling System</b> None</p> <p><b>Water Heating System</b> Gas storage type, 0.52 EF</p>	<p><b>Official Home Energy Rating</b> in conformance with the requirements of the California Energy Commission <a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov">www.energy.ca.gov</a></p>  <p><b>HERS Provider:</b> Acme Energy Rated Homes 934 Energy Efficient Way Power Junction, California <a href="http://www.AcmeEnergyRatedHomes.com">www.AcmeEnergyRatedHomes.com</a></p> <p><b>Rating Information</b> Rating Number xxxx-yyyy Certified Rater EEH, Inc. Stockton, CA Rating Date: January dd, yyyy</p> <hr/> <p>Rater Signature _____ Date _____</p>
<p>Qualifying Information Goes Here:</p>			
<p>HERS Provider and/or Sponsor Co-Branding Logos Go Here:</p>			

# Upgrade Team


## ▶ *The Contractor:*

- Installs the measures, is hired by the owner
- May partner with Specialty Trades to complete work
- May have to subcontract with HERS Rater and/or BPI Professional for additional compliance and CO Safety Testing (if NOT qualified)
- Can also be the Rater\* IF trained as a HERS BPC

\*HERS BPC Contractors are NOT allowed to conduct compliance verifications on their own work.



# Building Performance Contractors


- ▶ GC's who took on energy efficiency, green, building science, community awareness, social responsibility without being asked
  - ▶ We knew we had a huge impact on the environment and chose to work differently
  - ▶ Typically self-taught, we traveled around collecting education, knowledge, and certificates.
  - ▶ Some eventually became BPI (the only game in town) certified.
- 

# Business Model Opportunity

- ▶ Newly approved HERS BPC Company model
  - One-stop shopping for homeowner
  - Contractor conducts audit (test-in), analysis, installation, verification (test-out, NOT T-24 verifications)
  - Reduce need for outside consultants
  - Regain control of production schedule
- ▶ Model
  - Contractor's trained as BPI: Building Analyst AND Envelope OR hire a HERS BPC Rater
  - Contractor's can function as Compliance Rater (for others) and Whole House Raters
  - Contractors submit projects for HERS Score
  - Contractor allowed to test-in, create model, and install features, give rating



# Commonality

- ▶ All these professionals know the science behind the issues and the importance of comprehensive (whole-house) diagnosis.
  - ▶ They guide homeowners to solutions that are cost effective and actually work (save money, increase comfort, reduce loads, etc.).
  - ▶ They can provide “proper measures” and suggest “best practices” for the upgrades specific to the home.
- 

# Entering the Whole-House Energy Upgrade Marketplace

- ▶ Overview of business models
  - As a Specialty Contractor
  - Become a Building Science Professional
  - Community Partnerships
- ▶ Examples
  - General Contractors
  - Production Builders
  - HVAC
  - Insulation
  - Solar



# Be careful about merging in...

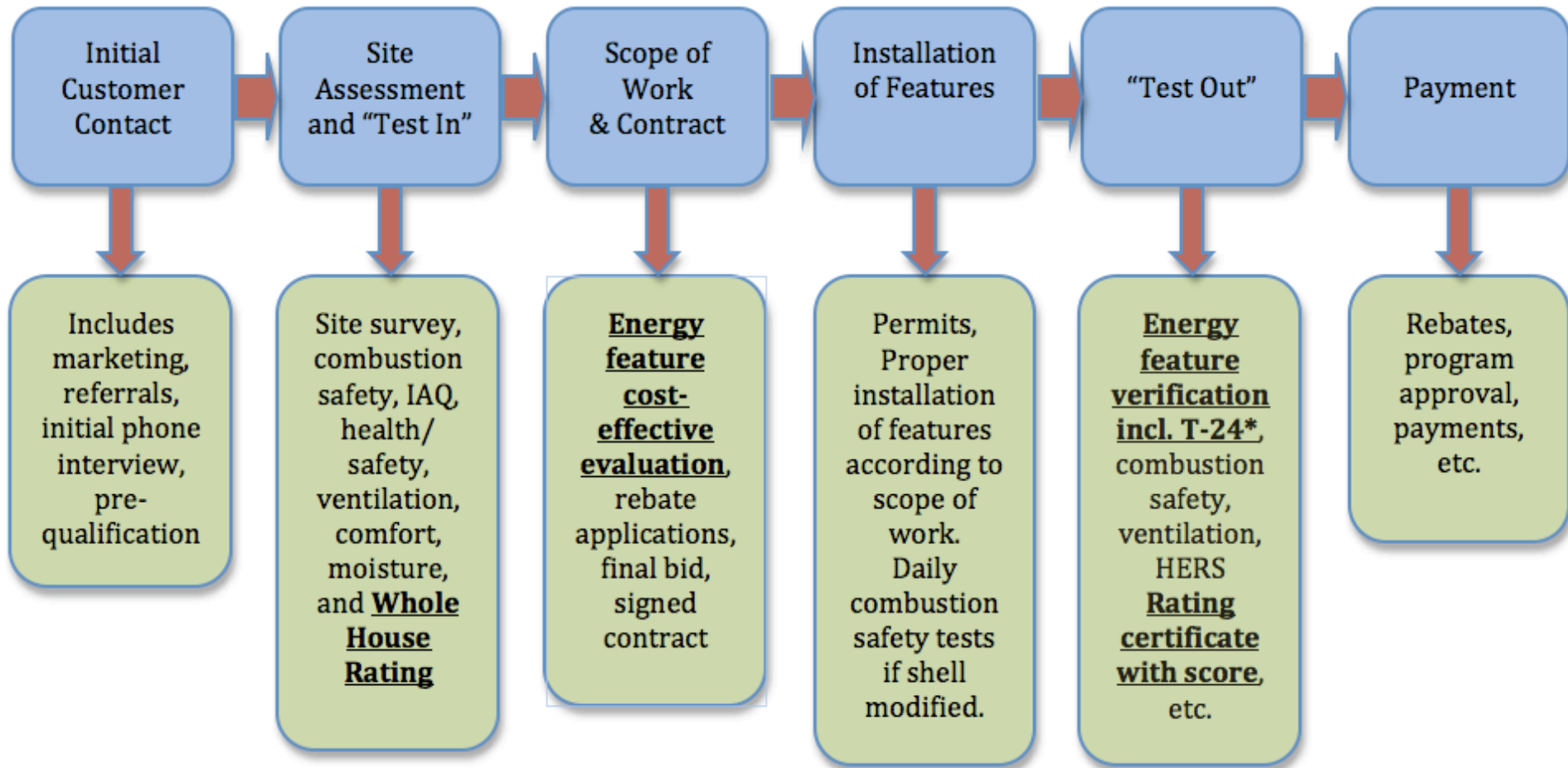
Energy Upgrade projects are sophisticated and require additional knowledge and skill sets most industry professionals do not possess

- Incentive and rebate programs can be hard to navigate and control
- Additional staff may be required to handle paperwork
- Pairing-up may be the “easiest and safest” approach to entry



# Upgrade Project Process Flow

Bold text can be done by an Independent Whole House Rater



\* Verification of energy features required by Title 24 due to an HVAC modification can only be done by an independent Rater.



# The Responsibilities in a Typical Building Performance Project

## **Energy Assessment**

Test in,  
Energy Upgrade  
Recommendations,  
HERS Index (Score),  
Test out.

## **Bldg. Performance Assessment**

Test In (Comb. Safety,  
IAQ, H&S, etc.)  
Everything but energy,  
Test Out.

## **Installation**

Energy Features and  
All Other Upgrades  
and Improvements.

Who does what will vary under different programs. The various options are . . .

# The Responsibilities in a Typical Building Performance Project

## Energy Assessment

Test in,  
Energy Upgrade  
Recommendations,  
HERS Index (Score),  
Test out.

Whole House  
Rater

## Bldg. Performance Assessment

Test In (Comb. Safety,  
IAQ, H&S, etc.)  
Everything but energy,  
Test Out.

BPI Certified  
Building Analyst

## Installation

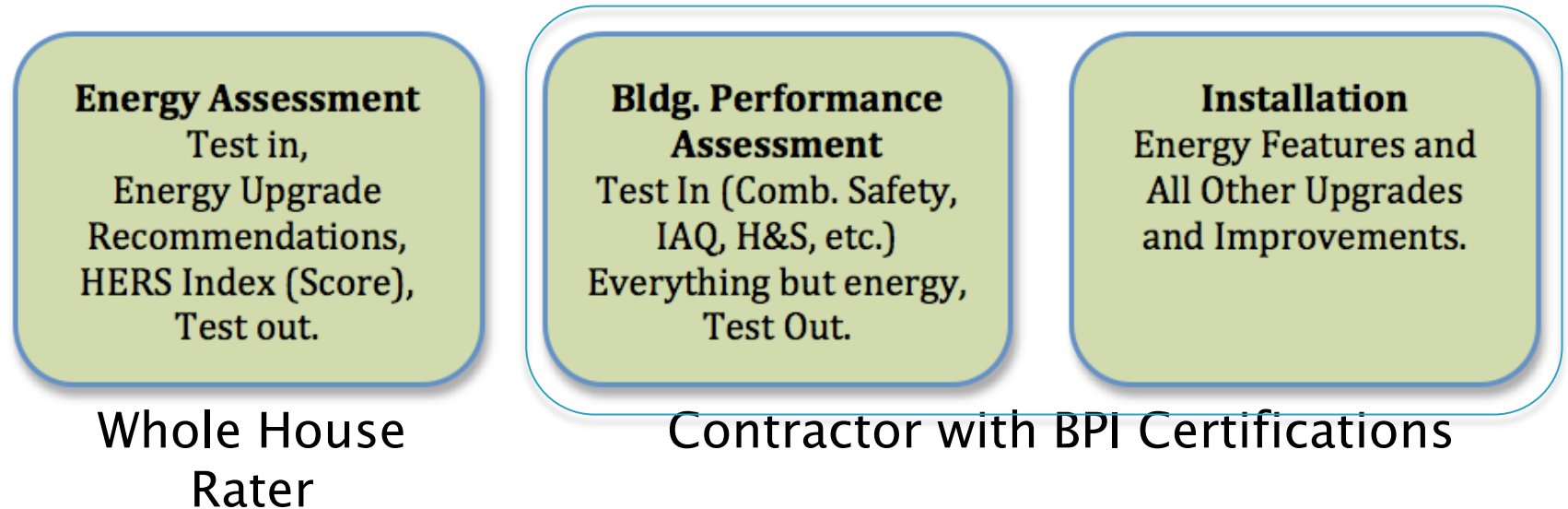
Energy Features and  
All Other Upgrades  
and Improvements.

Class B  
General Contractor

Note: Whole House Rater may also perform Title 24 Compliance verification.

## Three Separate People

# The Responsibilities in a Typical Building Performance Project



Note: Whole House Rater may also perform Title 24 Compliance verification.

## Two Separate People

# The Responsibilities in a Typical Building Performance Project

## **Energy Assessment**

Test in,  
Energy Upgrade  
Recommendations,  
HERS Index (Score),  
Test out.

Whole House Rater w/BPI Certifications

## **Bldg. Performance Assessment**

Test In (Comb. Safety,  
IAQ, H&S, etc.)  
Everything but energy,  
Test Out.

## **Installation**

Energy Features and  
All Other Upgrades  
and Improvements.

Class B  
General Contractor

Note: Whole House Rater may also perform Title 24 Compliance verification.

## Two Separate People

# The Responsibilities in a Typical Building Performance Project

## **Energy Assessment**

Test in,  
Energy Upgrade  
Recommendations,  
HERS Index (Score),  
Test out.

## **Bldg. Performance Assessment**

Test In (Comb. Safety,  
IAQ, H&S, etc.)  
Everything but energy,  
Test Out.

## **Installation**

Energy Features and  
All Other Upgrades  
and Improvements.

HERS Building Performance Contractor

Note: BPC may NOT perform Title 24 Compliance verification.

# One Single Company

# Business Model Options

- ▶ Specialty Trade Contractor
  - Examine current credentials and expertise
  - Consider costs associated with additional training and equipment costs
  - Talk with General Contractors you work with and offer an alliance for energy upgrade work
  - If you possess a GC license, consider getting BPI, HERS, GREEN trained to bolster your position as a one-stop-shop





# Business Model Options

Expand your current business model to become a Building Science Professional

- If the calendar is light, fill it with training
- There are many sources of ½ day, 1-day, 3-12 day trainings out there full of great stuff
- EVERY architect, builder, remodeler, specialty tradesperson, and supplier should KNOW and UNDERSTAND building science. Get trained & certified!


# Where to get Started?

- ▶ Industry Training Programs
  - ▶ Training Subsidies/Scholarship programs
    - (EUC, WIBs/Community Colleges, City & County training programs)
  - ▶ Utility Training Programs
    - PG&E
    - SMUD
  - ▶ Private Industry Training and Professional Groups
    - CalCERTS
    - BIG
    - Efficiency First
    - NCI
- 

# Getting Started

## Industry Training Programs

Each trade may have specialized trainings and or certifications:

- ▶ HVAC: HVAC Excellence, NATE, EPA, IHACHI, ASHRAE
  - ▶ Plumbers: GreenPlumbers
  - ▶ GC's: CGBP, CGB
- 

# Getting Started

- ▶ Training Subsidies/Scholarship programs
  - CEC
  - EUC
  - WIBs
  - Community Colleges
  - City & County training programs

# Getting Started

## ▶ Utility Training Programs

### ◦ PG&E

- Many great courses on all kinds of topics
- Two editions annually
- Sign up online is easy

### ◦ SMUD

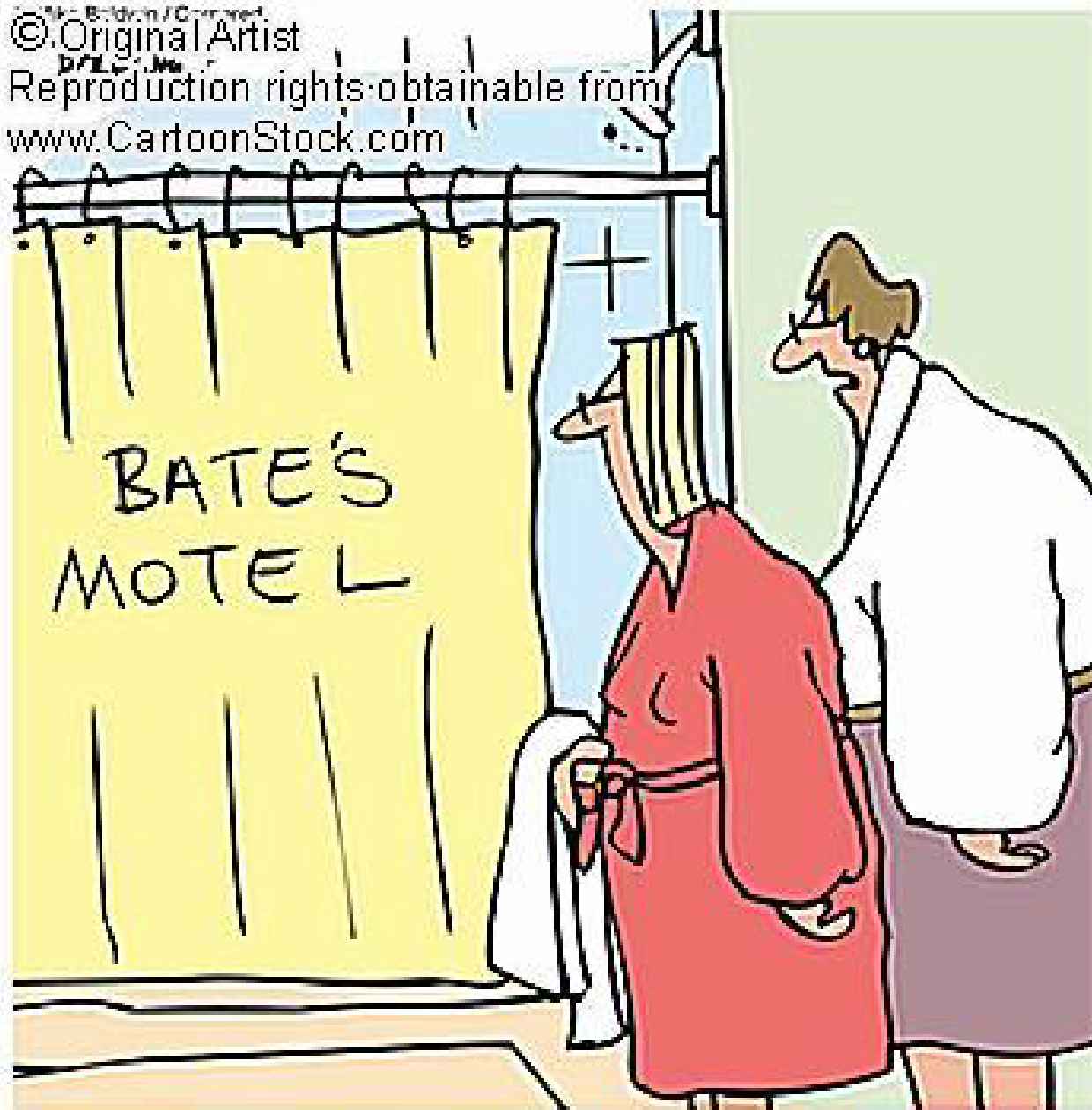
- Great trainings, mostly around electrical consumption

# Getting Started

- ▶ Private Industry Training and Professional Groups
  - CalCERTS
    - CA HERS Rater Trainings and Certifications
    - HERS BPC Training and Certification
    - NSHP Training and Certification
    - Energy Star Home
  - BIG
    - CGBP
    - GreenPoint Rater
  - Efficiency First
    - Trade organization
    - Voice of industry?
  - NCI
    - In-depth training on CO, air balancing, etc.



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"It's your father's idea. He wants you to take quicker showers."



# Questions???

## Thank You!

Visit: [www.CalCERTS.com](http://www.CalCERTS.com) for more information on HERS trainings and certifications