

Common House Problems That Cause High Energy Costs and Sacrifice Comfort

Many homes have these common problems which may go undetected by the homeowner. The problems are color coded in the diagram below.

Problem: Inadequate Insulation Levels

- Effects:**
- Warm and cool air escapes, causing heating and cooling equipment to work harder than necessary
 - Ice damming may occur, leading to roof and ceiling leaks
 - Freezing pipes

Problem: Air leakage

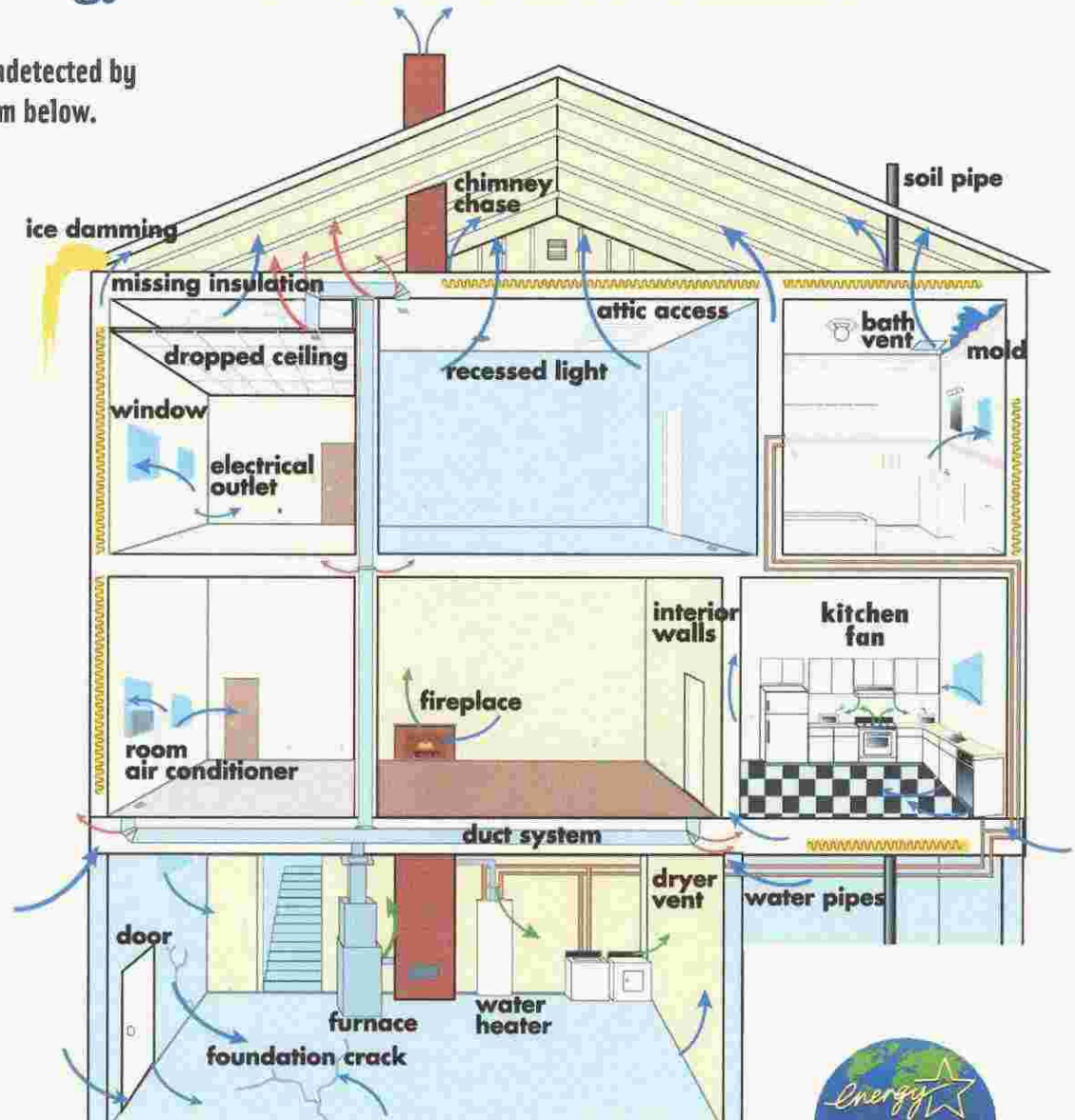
- Effects:**
- Drafts and cold spots
 - Overworking of heating and cooling equipment
 - Moisture problems leading to peeling, paint, mold, mildew or structural damage in walls and attic
 - Inadequate air exchange causing unhealthy air quality, high humidity or dryness

Problem: Duct Leakage

- Effects:**
- Uneven distribution of warm or cool air
 - Uncomfortable room temperatures
 - Poor heating and cooling equipment performance

Problem: Improperly Vented Appliances

- Effects:**
- Dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can enter the living space when gas or oil-fired appliances are not vented properly. This is known as backdrafting and often occurs with poorly vented heating systems, stoves, water heaters, and clothes dryers.



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