

Average household reduction of CO2 emissions: 621 pounds a year

How

If your doors are in good shape and you don't want to replace them, make sure they seal tightly and have door sweeps at the bottom to prevent air leaks. Installing insulated storm doors provides an additional barrier to leaking air. Find out how to weatherstrip doors from the [U.S. Department of Energy](#).

The best windows shut tightly and are constructed of two or more pieces of glass separated by a gas that does not conduct heat well. Replacing older windows with energy-efficient ones can significantly reduce air leaks and utility bills. If you cannot replace older windows, there are several things you can do to make them more energy efficient. First, caulk any cracks around the windows and make sure they seal tightly. Add storm windows or sheets of clear plastic to the outside to create additional air barriers. You can also hang insulated drapes on the inside during cold seasons.

The [Kansas City Home Performance Network](#) program of the [Metropolitan Energy Center](#) is available to help homeowners make energy efficient changes like this one. Call 816-835-7593 or e-mail energy@kcenergy.org for more information.

If you're a renter, you can still weatherize your doors and windows and reap the benefits. Be sure to check with your landlord first if you have any doubts.

Why

The barrier created around a house with windows, doors, insulated walls, ceilings, and floors must be leak-free for a truly energy efficient house. About one-third of a typical home's heat loss occurs around and through the doors and windows.