

The Homeowner's Glossary Of Energy Defines The 'Buzz Words'

If you're a homeowner and think KWHR is a West Coast radio station, it's time to learn otherwise.

KWHR, or kilowatt hours, is one of many "buzz words" in the growing energy conservation field.

To help the energy-conscious homeowner know more about this field, Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation has put together this glossary of some of the most frequently used energy-linked terms:

AIR INFILTRATION: This is the leakage into your home, through cracks and crevices, of hot — or cold — air. It causes winter "heat loss" or summer "heat gain" and a waste of your energy dollars.

BTU: Literally, British Thermal Unit. A measure of heat flow. One Btu of heat is required to raise the temperature of 1 lb of water 1°F (e.g., from 59° to 60°).

CAULK: To make a given area water- or air-tight by filling cracks and crevices — around windows and doors and where exterior walls meet the roof and foundations. Caulking guns and paste are relatively inexpensive and easy to use.

CHINKING: Filling in cracks and narrow openings with leftover pieces of insulation. These openings are most often found around the chimney and where attic "ide walls adjoin the attic floor."

CRAWL SPACE: The area between the bottom of the house and the ground. Usually two to four feet high, crawl spaces are usually found in homes without a basement or a concrete slab base. Installing insulation on the underside of the first floor (the top of the crawl space)

retards the loss of heat through the floor. Piping and heating ducts are often found in crawl spaces. Be sure to insulate ducts to prevent loss of heat; wrap pipes with insulation to prevent them from freezing.

DOUBLE-GLAZING: A specially made window consisting of two panes of glass with an air-space between to serve as an insulating medium. Or it can be a storm sash installed over existing windows. Either way, the addition of a second (or even third) layer of glass helps plug an important area of heat loss. Also, tinted or reflective glass may aid in reducing heat gain in summer.

DUCTWORK: Passages through which heated and cooled air are distributed throughout the house. Ducts running through portions of a house that aren't heated or cooled, such as attics or crawl spaces, should be

insulated to ensure maximum efficiency.

EAVE VENTS: Openings around the perimeter of the attic that allow an air flow that keeps attics cool in summer and prevents moisture build-up in the attic in winter.

FILTERS: Porous barriers inserted in heating and cooling systems to keep dust and other contaminants from being circulated in the living area. Naturally, they become clogged after a while and lower the efficiency of the system.

INSULATION: A material that resists the transfer of heat. The more effective insulating materials are those with the higher resistance or "R-values." Insulation is commonly available in either blanket or "batt" form, or in a loose, chopped-up form.

The blanket type is prefabricated to yield a uniform thickness and density, which

in most cases, assures consumers of getting the R-value they're paying for. (See definition of R-value.) It is sold in widths (of 15-16 in. or 23-24 in.) to fit between conventional framing joists and studs in most American homes, making it fast and simple to calculate the amount of coverage for each package of insulation.

Loose insulation must be carefully hand-poured or pneumatically blown into walls and attics to achieve a desired R-value for each square foot of coverage. Instructions for achieving the coverage at a given R-value may be found on the package, but it still is very easy for do-it-yourselfers to make a mistake during installation. When using loose insulation, it is best to hire a qualified insulation contractor who has been trained to install the material correctly.

INSULATION CONTRACTOR: A specialist in the installation of insulation. Do not confuse with a building or roofing contractor. Such contractors are listed in the Yellow Pages under "Insulation Contractors — Cold and Heat."

KILOWATT HOUR

(KWHR): A measure of the use of electric energy equal to 1,000 watts of electricity used steadily for one hour. One KWHR will power a 100-watt bulb for 10 hours.

LANDSCAPING: The planting design of shade

trees, shrubs and bushes. It not only can beautify the home but also can help lower fuel bills. According to the climate, strategically placed evergreen trees and shrubs can act as wind, rain and snow breaks in winter and provide shade in summer.



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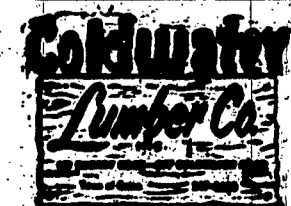

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