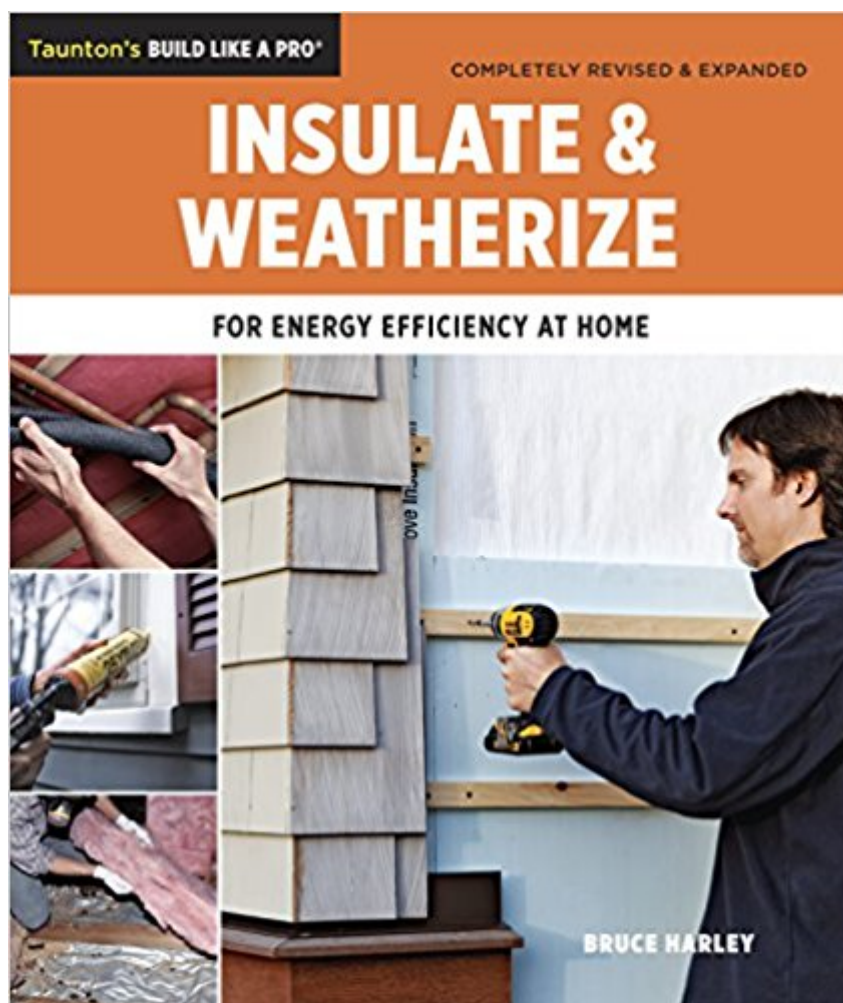


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Insulate And Weatherize: For Energy Efficiency At Home (Taunton's Build Like A Pro)



Synopsis

The appliances we use—the lights we turn on—these two items alone in our homes can account for upward of 40% of total energy dollars spent. For those who want to save money (and who doesn't?) by becoming more energy efficient—and for those who want to go a step further and embrace the latest strategies in renewable and alternative energy systems—Insulate and Weatherize is about to lead the way. It's been 10 years since the first edition of *Insulate and Weatherize* was a smash hit. In this completely revised and expanded edition, the advances in science and technology shine brightly to walk homeowners through the many solutions for basic energy, air-flow problems, heating and cooling systems, appliances and lights, mixed climate issues, and alternative energy strategies that are doable and extremely efficient. With *Insulate and Weatherize* at hand, home energy costs won't soar through the roof, especially if there's a solar panel or two on it.

Book Information

Series: Taunton's Build Like a Pro

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Taunton Press; Rev Exp edition (October 18, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1600854680

ISBN-13: 978-1600854682

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 9.2 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #696,937 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in *Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Energy Efficiency* #571 in *Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Home Repair* #750 in *Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Do-It-Yourself*

Customer Reviews

Bruce Harley is a noted expert on energy-efficient residential construction and renovation. A long-time engineer, he has helped diagnose and repair such varied problems as building air leakage, indoor air quality, HVAC system failures, plus combustion and moisture issues. Bruce has also led national seminars on energy-efficient residential construction, codes, building science, and

mechanical systems.

There is lots of information in this book, but for the most part it is too vague to help making decisions. The book avoids discussing any numbers, and its proscriptions are extremely vague. In some places the information is omitted, but no references are given where the interested reader can turn themselves to. Here are some examples: On page 11, book discusses "mean radiant temperature". It gets the definition slightly wrong (it is not the average of temperatures weighted by surface area, but the average of fourth powers of temperatures in Kelvin weighted by subtended angles). Then it says that a room with a mean radiant temperature of 63°F and air temperature of 70°F is too cold, and the thermostat would need to be set higher. How much higher? In other words, how do we subjectively perceive the balance between air temperature and radiant temperature, and what is comfortable? The answer is not in the book (it is in ASHRAE Standard 55-2010). In particular, this temperature would be comfortable for a person in motion. On page 25, the book advises avoiding pay-back calculations and recommends considering instead the cost of financing a loan vs. energy savings. However, the book lacks any information on how to compute the said savings. Also, this view is too simplistic, since some of the investments that book discusses (mechanical ventilation system, heating/cooling systems) come with non-negligible maintenance and depreciation costs (i.e., the lifetime of the heating system might be less than the loan term). On page 31, the book speaks about venting the underside of the roof deck in "heavy snow areas". What qualifies as a heavy snow here? How do I tell if my house needs venting? On page 41, the author admits that he "consider[s] it most effective to create a good air barrier between basement and the outdoors by sealing the walls [...] even if you intend to insulate the floor over the basement". Similarly to many other opinions dispensed in the book, no justification is given. On page 65, the book devotes less than half a page to discussion of how much insulation is needed. The book does not even define R-value, saying only "higher is better". The book tells neither how to estimate the R-value of existing structure nor how to compute the effect of adding insulation. In short, the book is valuable for general inspiration, but lacks any actionable detail. Also, instead of a list of references, it has "Resources" section that consists mostly of names of companies, along with some green education websites.

Insulate and Weatherize is another book on different approaches to saving energy. This book takes you through air sealing, insulating, caulking around doors and windows, different insulating materials, insulating siding and many aspects of tightening up your home for summer heat and winter chill. My house was built in 1994. My electrical and heating bills are up with the heating costs

of houses built in 2010-2014. This is what knowledge will do for your heating bill if you put into practice what this book tells you about how you can tighten up your home. Stop paying the utilities all of your hard earned money and using this book save your money to spend on other goodies!

This is the most comprehensive book on the topic that I have come across yet. Mr. Harley does an excellent job of translating the concepts into language that anyone can understand. I recommend this book for anyone that is involved with or interested in residential air sealing and weatherization. From homeowners to veteran contractors, I think that the way the subject is presented in this book is well thought-out, clear, and concise. I have been in the insulating and air sealing industry for a few years now, and there are concepts that I have struggled to convey to those I interact with. Thanks to this book, I feel that I can more clearly present those ideas to people that I am trying to get to understand just what, exactly, it is that I do for a living (and why it is so important)!

This is an excellent resource for the home-builder or re-modeler or some who's going to hire out a project. I love that along with the energy efficiency of assertive insulation, the authors bring attention to what I might not have fully appreciated - that the home needs to be protected against vapor or dampness accumulation if things aren't balanced correctly. Scary! I feel like I can go into my home-building project knowing enough to see whether things are done correctly. A reasonable (clear english) and excellent read.

Hello, I teach small residential, multifamily and commercial buildings operations, maintenance and energy management courses and hold a good number of trade certifications including weatherization. This is by far the best book on this subject for content, writing and price. Buy it

Great book on how to make the most impact on a house's energy usage. Author is very practical and I would say a true expert when it comes to this stuff. I think this book is great b/c you can save money by simply buying this book (and others on being Green) and make your own energy improvements - without having to spend money on outside help or rely on uneducated advice from other sources (ppl who are "know-it alls".)

The book is as beautiful as a how-to book can get. Glossy finish and nice photos make this a great book. However, the section on weatherizing doors and windows, my prime reason for purchasing the book, were slim - less than a page of instructions for how to do this. This book would be more

appropriate for someone doing intense weatherizing, rather than for the casual do-it-yourselfer like myself who doesn't even know how to start.

Great home performance technique book with respect to performing installation contracting work.

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