

# DIY like a pro

## Your home improvement energy guide

Make your home more energy efficient with these easy DIY projects. Plus, save on all your supplies at our [Online Marketplace](#).



### Installing a smart thermostat

Ready to install your new smart thermostat? Most brands share the same basic setup, but you may want to check your model's instructions or [find a contractor](#).

#### Step 1

Turn off the power at the circuit breaker, and if in doubt, turn off all the power.

If you feel uncomfortable working with electricity, hire a contractor to install your thermostat.

#### Step 2

Take the faceplate off and snap a photo of the wires to help you reconnect them later.

#### Step 3

Remove the old baseplate and install the new one. Use a level to make sure it's even.

#### Step 4

Attach the wires by matching corresponding colors or labels.

Reference the instructions from the manufacturer.

#### Step 5

Attach the smart thermostat, then flip breakers back on to make sure the thermostat has power.

#### Step 6

Connect your smart thermostat to your Wi-Fi network and set the temperature by following the manufacturer instructions for your model.



### Insulating your windows

Want to keep the winter drafts outside where they belong? A window insulation kit is the perfect solution to help keep your home warm and your energy bill lower.

#### Step 1

Clean the window to prepare for installation.

#### Step 2

Apply the double-stick tape around the edges.

#### Step 3

Attach the film to one side, pulling it tight while leaving 4–6 inches of extra material.

#### Step 4

Use a hair dryer to shrink the film, creating a snug fit. It's that simple!



### Caulking your windows

Window caulking starting to peel and crack? Replacing it not only keeps the cold air out but also keeps moisture and bugs out.

#### Step 1

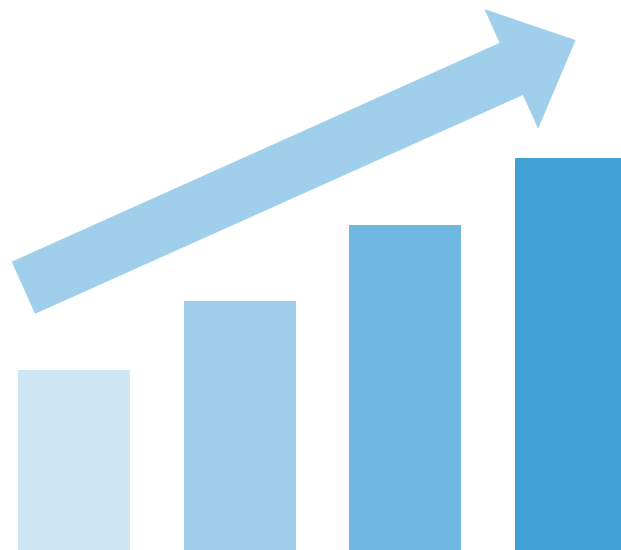
Tools: Two tubes of caulk, a tube gun, a utility knife, a glove, sandpaper and a towel.

#### Step 2

Prep: Wipe down the window surface, remove the old caulk with your knife and sand off any leftover material.

#### Step 3

Application: Cut the tip off the caulk tube, leaving a small hole. Apply pressure along the window seam and then smooth the bead with your glove.



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