



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: TESTS AND TECHNICAL TERMS

1. WHAT IS A BLOWER DOOR?

A blower door is a diagnostic tool designed to measure the air tightness of buildings and to help locate air leakage sites. The blower door test will be used before the project is started, and again after the home improvements are completed. The blower door changes the atmospheric pressure of the house to help determine where the home is leaking air.

2. WHEN SHOULD THE BLOWER DOOR TEST BE DONE?

The blower door must be performed before and after any air sealing or building insulation work.

3. IS THE BLOWER DOOR TEST INCLUDED IN THE HOME ASSESSMENT?

Not always. A basic assessment may be performed without a blower door test. For a more thorough assessment of the energy efficiency of your home, however, a blower door test is recommended. When requesting assessment pricing from the Trade Ally, you should ask if a blower door test is included.

4. HOW ARE TOTAL ENERGY SAVINGS (TES) CALCULATED?

The savings is based on software calculations of the amount of energy that will be saved from the upgrades being proposed (as a percentage of the total electric cost), and any fossil fuel energy you use over a 12 month period.

5. WHAT MEASURES IMPACT TES?

All eligible measures that save energy, such as air sealing and insulation may be included in a package of upgrades to potentially achieve 10-30% total energy savings.

6. WHAT ARE HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES?

They are issues related to the presence of potentially hazardous insulation materials, excess moisture, and combustion by-products.

7. WHY DO I HAVE TO FIX HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES BEFORE AIR SEALING OR OTHER WORK IS PERFORMED?

Health and safety issues have negative impacts on the indoor air quality of your home. They also can pose a risk to the durability of your home and/or the health of the occupants. These issues include your house being too tight (i.e. not getting enough fresh air), excessive moisture, and carbon monoxide issues.

8. WHAT IS R-VALUE?

Insulation with a large R-value has a larger, better resistance to heat, meaning less heat is able to penetrate through it and escape. Therefore, the higher the R-value, the more energy-efficient your home will be.



Additional Comments, Questions, or Concerns?
We'd love to hear them all.

Email homeperformance@focusonenergy.com
or call toll-free 800.762.7077

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