




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Bee an Energy Star!!!

Cooperative Spirit Day

Saturday, April 4
9 to 11:45 a.m.

Pioneer Electric Piqua Office

You have a unique opportunity as an owner of your electric cooperative to directly participate in shaping the future. We are gearing up for the 2009 election, so don't forget to vote for members to be on the county boards and Board of Trustees by mailing in your ballots by March 27. You will be receiving the ballots in the mail in late February.

Come on April 4 and join your fellow member/owners in hearing first-hand updates from your cooperative's leaders and getting the election results. You'll be able to enjoy some refreshments and even could win a door prize. We also will give you a \$10 bill credit just for coming. There will be something for everyone at this year's Cooperative Spirit Day, so don't miss it!

Grand Prize

*\$500 Energy Star appliance/electronics credit
& Energy Efficiency Kit*

2nd Prize

Air Purifier & Energy Efficiency Kit (\$200 value)

3rd Prize

Lowe's \$100 Gift Card & Energy Efficiency Kit

We're looking forward to seeing you on April 4!!!

*Make sure you look for signs,
as there will be off-site parking only.
Registration tickets for the door prizes
must be turned in by 10:45 a.m.*

Insulation 101 – Part 3

Basements

U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

By Meghan McGuire — Energy Advisor

A properly insulated basement can help reduce your energy costs. However, basement walls are one of the most controversial areas of a house to insulate and seal. You need to carefully consider the advantages and disadvantages, not to mention moisture control.

Annual energy savings

The energy cost savings of basement wall insulation vary depending on the local climate, type of heating system, fuel cost and occupant lifestyle. Typical annual cost savings by R-value in a few U.S. cities are provided in the table to the right for a 1,500-square-foot home with a conditioned basement heated by natural gas (\$0.72/therm).

Annual savings with basement wall insulation

U.S. cities	R-10*	R-20**
Buffalo, N.Y.	\$350	\$390
Denver, Colo.	\$310	\$360
Minneapolis, Minn.	\$400	\$450
Seattle, Wash.	\$280	\$320
St. Louis, Mo.	\$250	\$290
Washington, D.C.	\$250	\$280

**Such as 2 to 3 inches of exterior foam insulation.*

***Such as with most insulated concrete forms.*

Advantages and Disadvantages

In most cases, a basement with insulation installed in the exterior basement walls should be considered a conditioned space. Even in a house with an unconditioned basement, the basement is more connected to other living spaces than to the outside. This connection makes basement wall insulation preferable to insulating the basement ceiling.

Compared to insulating the basement ceiling, insulating basement walls has the following advantages:

- Requires less insulation (1,350 square feet of wall insulation for a 36 x 48-foot basement with 8-foot walls, compared with 1,725 ceiling)
- More easily achieves continuous thermal and air leakage boundaries because basement ceilings typically include electrical wiring, plumbing and ductwork.
- Requires little, if any, increase in the size of the heating and cooling equipment. The heat loss and air leakage through the basement ceiling is similar to that through the exterior walls of the basement.

These are some other advantages of insulation on exterior basement walls:

- Minimizes thermal bridging and reducing heat loss through the foundation;
- Protects the damp-proof coating from damage during backfilling;
- Serves as a capillary break to moisture intrusion;
- Protects the foundation from the effects of the freeze-thaw cycle in extreme climates;
- Reduces the potential for condensation on surfaces in the basement;
- Conserves room area, relative to installing insulation on the interior.



Insulation 101 – Part 3 Basements continued...

The disadvantages of basement wall insulation include the following:

- Costs may exceed those for insulating the basement ceiling, depending on materials and approach selected
- Installation is expensive for an existing building unless a perimeter drainage system also is being installed
- Many exterior insulation materials are susceptible to insect infestation
- Some contractors are unfamiliar with proper detailing procedures that are critical to performance
- If surrounding soil contains radon gas, the house will require a mitigation system underneath the basement floor.

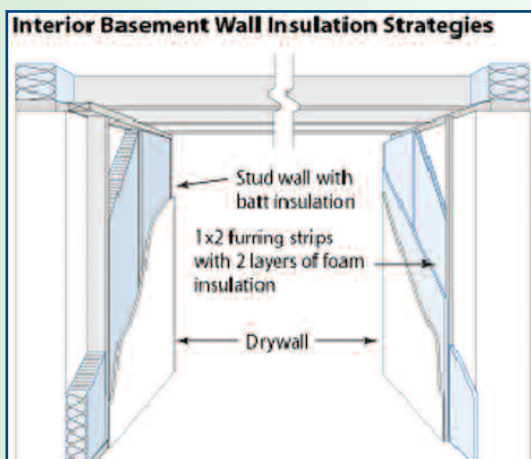
Adding insulation to the interior of the foundation often is more cost-effective for an existing building. Interior insulation has the following advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages:

- Interior insulation is much less expensive to install than exterior insulation for existing buildings
- Almost any insulation type can be used, giving a wider selection of materials
- The threat of insect infestation is eliminated
- The space is isolated from the colder earth more effectively than when using exterior methods

Disadvantages:

- Many insulation types require a fire-rated covering since they release toxic gases when ignited
- Interior insulation reduces usable interior space by a few inches
- It doesn't protect the damp-proof coating like the exterior insulation
- If the perimeter drainage is poor, the insulation may become saturated by moisture weeping through the foundation walls
- Superior air-sealing details and vapor diffusion retarders are important for adequate performance



Other considerations

When insulating any part of your home, you also need to consider proper air sealing and moisture control. Moisture control for basements is particularly important since they are notorious for problems with water intrusion, humidity and mold.

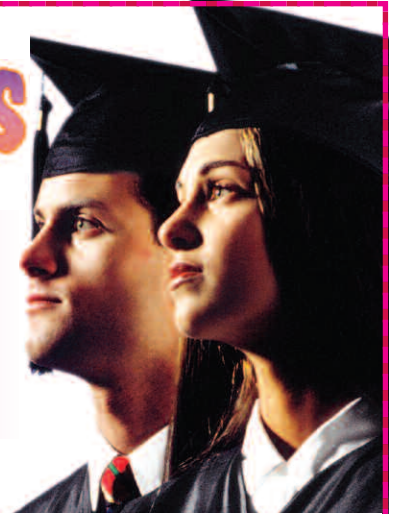
Finally, you need to consider radon resistance or control when installing any type of foundation.

Source: http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/electricity/index.cfm/mytopic=10710.
Another resource for how to insulate basements: "Builder's Guide to Cold Climates" by Joseph Lstiburek

High School Seniors

Are your parents members of a rural electric cooperative?

You could win a college, vocational or technical school scholarship of **\$1,500**



Here are the rules for the scholarship competition:

1. Applicants must be a son, daughter or legal ward of a Pioneer Electric Cooperative member. They must be receiving service at the time of the statewide competition.
2. All applications must be submitted (typed) on forms obtainable on request from Pioneer Electric or at Web site.
3. All applications, regardless of postmark, must be received in the office by 5 p.m., Monday, March 2. Applications received after this will not be accepted.
4. Applicants must have all basic credits for college or proper vocational or technical school entrance. (Proper vocational or technical schools must educate beyond high school and credits earned must be transferable to a state-accredited college.) They must have a current career average of 3.5 (based on a 4-point scale) or better. Eligible applicants also may be accepted and then enrolled in an accredited school of nursing, working toward a degree or graduation.

For information and an application form, visit our Web site at

www.pioneerec.com

or call Nancy Hatcher at 1-800-762-0997.

We're working for you...

At Pioneer Electric Cooperative, there's one thing that never has changed. Actually, there are four things — our core values. Those core values are integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. These values are the foundation for everything we do, and we're still focused on them almost 75 years after our formation. With the changes taking place in the electric industry, it's good to know there are some things you can depend on. Integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community define our cooperative and have a positive impact on our member-owners as we conduct business on a daily basis. At Pioneer Electric Cooperative, we are proud to have local ownership and local operation, and we recognize the power of human connections. We are your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative.

