

Radiant Barrier Technology Saves Energy, Cuts Cost

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We're all going green. Being environmentally responsible to our communities, our country and our planet has become a global issue. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act makes "going green" big news at the personal level. This stimulus bill has the potential to expand the existing Federal tax credits for energy-efficient improvements from 10 percent to a generous 30 percent, offered as a Federal Tax Rebate. That means there could be up to \$6,500 available per home for energy efficiency upgrades for a qualified family of four, earning under \$44,000 annually.

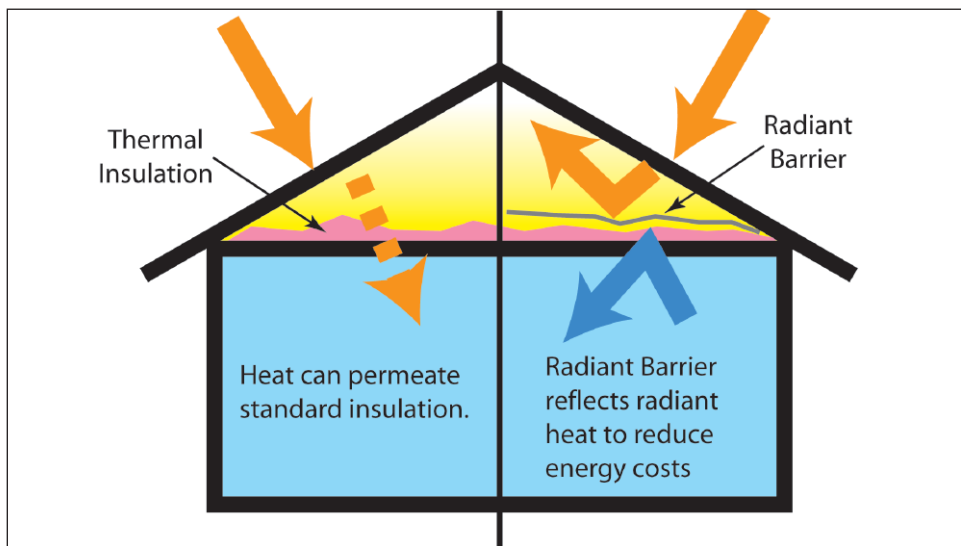
How do you choose which green improvements to make in your home? Do the cheapest, easiest things first, like fixing drafts around your doors, windows, and foundation. But for this article, let's focus on an area of significant impact that may qualify for up to a 30 percent rebate, your attic insulation.

Insulation is one of those things that every-

one seems to know they need, but understand very little about. The pink stuff in our attics is classified as "thermal," for it functions like a blanket. We all need thermal insulation, and more is usually better, but thermal insulation only addresses part of the problem.

Thermal insulation, since it deals with "capacity" (R-value), can reach a point where it becomes "full." Like a sponge held under running water, eventually water runs right through because it can hold no more. The greater your insulation R-value, the bigger your sponge, but at some point it still reaches capacity. Once your insulation is "full," heat begins to pass through to your conditioned space. In fact, pent-up heat in your insulation is released into your home in the evening, even after the outdoor temperatures have dropped!

So, what can be done about these thermal deficiencies? Consider adding a radiant barrier to your attic space. Radiant barrier technology has no capacity limits, and can reflect away heat day-in and day-out without any performance change. Today, radiant barrier tech-



nology is found in car shades, lunch bags, and now in our homes.

Radiant barrier film is a lightweight, aluminum-faced material that works with your existing thermal insulation to dramatically increase your home's energy efficiency. With a single perforated layer over your attic insulation, radiant barrier film can reflect away up to 98 percent of the radiant energy previously absorbed by your thermal insulation. Radiant barrier can be installed quickly with most jobs requiring only a few hours in the attic.

The combined thermal/radiant barrier system helps your house act like an insulated vacuum bottle. Homeowners report an 8 to 25 percent reduction in energy costs. With its ini-

tial low cost and lower energy bills, radiant barriers may be the best value of any energy improvement you choose to make. Additionally, The IRS and the Department of Energy are currently in discussions over potential future tax breaks for radiant barriers.

Although this article only explored insulation (an expanded version of the article is on the web at www.gtrnews.com), there are many more "green" rebate-qualified improvements you can make to your home, and I invite you to explore all you can. Find a reputable contractor, who can advise you on energy improvements. Tax benefits aside, you'll be glad you did once you see your dramatically lower utility bills.

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HOME SHOW RELOCATES

DANIEL C. CAMERON for GTR Newspapers

CHOOSING TULSA: The manufactured housing industry is responding to the oil and gas industry's high demand for products by launching the Great Southwest Home Show in Tulsa. The show was held at Expo Square's QuikTrip Center in April.

The show filled the QuikTrip Center with the latest benchmarks in manufactured housing. The show drew retailers, developers, community and economic development officials and others from the southwest including Kansas, Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Show Chairman Doug Gorman is excited this show has come to Tulsa. "This is a great opportunity to bring those in our industry to Tulsa," Gorman said. "We have a great working relationship with Expo Square, and we know this will be an economic development opportunity for the community."

The show brought hundreds of guests to Tulsa from all over the country, including HUD Administrator Bill Matchneer from Washington, D.C. The Renaissance Tulsa Hotel acted as headquarters for the visitors.

Photographed from left are Deanna Fields, Executive Director Manufactured Housing Association of Oklahoma; Mitch Gorman; Bill Matchneer, HUD Administrator; Millie Gorman; and Doug Gorman, Show Chairman and owner of Home-Mart.

Edward Jones

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