

The invisible home makeover

For most Canadians, a home makeover means new window treatments, flooring and cabinets. However, when it comes to home maintenance, it's what's on the inside that counts. While a new dÉcor will certainly improve the look of your home, it's important to properly maintain the parts that work behind the scenes. There's no point in decorating a home that isn't going to pass the test of time. Before you choose the next paint colour for your dining room, consider the following invisible home makeover tips provided by Direct Energy.

Insulation renovation: Improving your home's insulation is one of the fastest and most cost effective ways to cut down on heating costs in your home. Proper insulation will ensure an even, warm temperature in your home throughout the cold fall and winter months overall. Properly insulating your walls and attic will also help conserve energy and reduce energy costs.

Duct Décor: While ducts may not be at the top of your dÉcor list, it's important to keep them clean. In most homes, five to six pounds of dust is removed during a duct cleaning. To keep your ducts free of dirt, mould, pet hair and allergens, have them cleaned once every three to five years.

Roof Redesign: The colour and style of your roof may say a lot about your design taste, but the condition of your roof speaks volumes about your home's energy efficiency. Heat escaping through your roof can lead to increased heating costs and possible moisture issues. An inspection by a professional before winter can help identify any potential prob-



lems and help prevent future water damage.

Window Treatment: A significant amount of heating in your home can be lost through poorly fitted window frames and doors. It may not be the most exciting of renovations, but caulking around windows that don't open and weather stripping around windows that do open is an inexpensive way to help you save money in the long term. If your windows are older, consider replacing them with Energy Star certified windows.

More invisible home makeover tips can be found online at www.directenergy.com or toll-free, 1-888-334-8221.

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