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Try our energy quiz to see if you're saving money

Are you an energy wise homeowner? Try this quiz to find out.

1. When insulation work is undertaken, it is important to meet or exceed the recommended thermal resistance vaues. Can you match the value or range of values listed below to the correct area?

a) RSI 4.7 (R 27) b) RSI 2.2 (R 13)

- c) RSI 4.7 to 7.1 (R 27 to 40)
- d) RSI 3.0 to 4.5 (R 17 to 26)
- 1) roof or ceiling
- 2) floor over unheated spaces
- 3) frame walls
- 4) basement walls
- 2. True or false?

a) The thermal resistance value of insulation is based solely on thickness. 25 millimetres of any type of insulation will always insulate as well as 25 mm of another.

b) Increasing insulation is always the first step homeowners should take to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. It's the best investment for your energy conservation dollar.

c) Fluorescent light use 60 to 75 per cent less energy to produce the same amount of light as incandescent bulbs - and last longer.

d) For each degree you set your thermostat above 20 C (on a 24-hour basis), your fuel consumption will increase an average of 5 per cent.

e) Caulking materials are all the same. Any one type can seal the different joints in your house as well as another, so it makes sense to buy the least costly product.

f) Because hot air rises, insulating the attic will generally make a house passably energy efficient.

Answers

1. a-2; b-4; c-1; d-3. 2. a) False. The thermal resistance of insulation is not based solely on its thickness. It is measured in RSI (metric) or R (imperial). The higher the RSI or R value, the better the material insulates. In some cases, two mm of one type of insulation can have a lower thermal resistance value than one mm of another material.

b) False. No single efficiency measure will always be most appropriate in every case. Assess othe air leakage in your home, existing levels of insulation and the condition of the heating system before beginning an energy conservation program.

c) True. Small energy saving measures like changing from incandescent to fluorescent fixture can really add up.

d) True. And the reverse is also true: for each degree you set your thermostat below 20 C on a 24-hour basis, fuel consumption will drop by about 5 per cent.

e) False. Some caulking materials are safe or appropriate only for use outside. Others are designed for special applications, such as areas subject to high moisture levels. Some materials dry clear and others can be painted over after they are dry.

It is always best to choose carefully as many materials as required for the applications you have planned.

f) False. Heat moves in many directions up, down or sideways - as long as it's moving from a warm spot to a colder one. Attic insulation will help improve the energy efficiency of your home but by itself will not make your home energy efficient.