




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

We are committed to the well-being of our members and employees to provide safe, reliable power and maintaining the company's financial strength.

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Attics and Ventilation

Protect your home with proper attic ventilation

Adequate attic ventilation is extremely important to reduce utility bills and to avoid damage to the roof and attic structure. Having a vent in each side of the gable was the typical attic ventilation configuration in older houses, but today it is considered woefully inadequate for an efficient house.

The ideal ventilation flow comes in low over the insulation, keeping it dry and cool. Some of it should flow up under the roof sheathing to keep it cooler and then exhaust out near the peak of the roof. This airflow out the roof peak keeps it cooler during summer and much colder during winter to minimize condensation and ice dam formation.

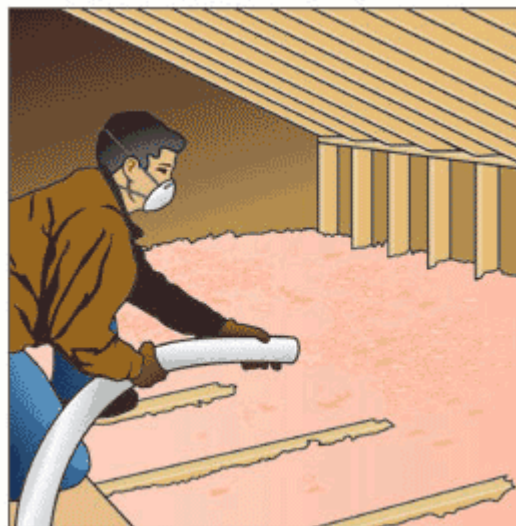
There are various attic venting options and all of them are better than gable vents. A combination of ridge vent and soffit vents is most effective and not difficult to install yourself.

Once you install proper new attic ventilation, block off the gable vents because they will interfere with the desired airflow. A good way to accomplish this is to staple extra attic foil over the gable vents.

The ridge vent is located at the roof peak where the hot attic air is least dense, so it naturally flows up and out. In addition to this, breezes over the top of the ridge vent cover and create a low pressure area to draw even more air through the attic and the cool air is drawn in the soffit vents.

First, calculate how much ventilation you need. This is measured by the net free vent area of the particular vent product you select. The net free vent area is marked on the packaging. It is always less than the actual area of the vent because of screening and other obstructions to the airflow inside the vent.

Measure the area of the attic floor to determine what is needed. A typical rule of thumb is 1 square foot of net free vent area for each 150 square feet of attic floor area. This amount of vent area should be divided evenly between the ridge vent and the inlet soffit vents. Check inside the attic to be sure the insulation is not blocking the soffit vents. Blockage can be solved by attaching small baffles.



Does warm weather have you thinking about making plans to help control energy costs? This could be a great time to consider energy-saving options.

Tune it up-When it comes to heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, spending a few dollars at the beginning of the season can add up to big savings and help you avoid expensive surprises and system failures.

[illegible]

Consider replacing systems that are more than 10 years old (or those that no longer keep your home comfortable) with a high-efficiency system that is properly sized and designed to meet your needs.

Find someone who can do an energy audit that will include examination of heating, cooling, and water heating equipment, as well as interior and exterior lighting. Other available services can include inspections and assessments of windows, crawl spaces and other voids for air leaks, which can degrade HVAC performance.

An analysis developed from the collected information can help determine a series of recommendations that, if accomplished, can produce savings. Homeowners can then decide which measure fits into their budgets or schedules.

Open doors don't just allow people to come and go. They also provide an instant exchange of cooler inside air for warm, moist air, much the same as the cooling effect you experience when standing in front of an open refrigerator. A cooler stocked with cold drinks and chilled snacks and placed outdoors can help cut down on household traffic on hot summer days.

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Summertime Fun!



Working in the trees.



Screwing in an anchor.



Installing a new service.



Changing a pole from a 25 ft. to a 30 ft.

Stay safe at home with these tips

Each year, electrical malfunctions account for thousands of home fires, injuries, death and property damage. The average American home was built in 1977, and many existing homes simply can't handle the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices.

Learn the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system:

- Frequent tripping of circuit breakers or blowing of fuses
- Dimming of lights when other devices are turned on
- Buzzing sound from switches or outlets
- Discolored outlets
- Appliances that seem underpowered

How to avoid overloading circuits:

- Label your circuit breakers to understand the different circuits in your home
- Have your home inspected by a qualified electrician if it's older than 40 years or if you've had a major appliance installed.
- Have a qualified electrician install new circuits for high energy use devices.
- Reduce your electrical load by using energy efficient appliances and lighting.

Safety isn't expensive, it's priceless.

Author: Unknown

Working from home?

Follow these electrical safety tips to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards.

- 1) Avoid overloading outlets.
- 2) Unplug appliances when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock or fire.
- 3) Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage.
- 4) Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis.
- 5) Never plug a space heater or fan into an extension cord or power strip.
- 6) Never run cords under rugs, carpets, doors or windows.
- 7) Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.
- 8) Keep papers and other potential combustibles at least three feet away from heat sources.
- 9) Make sure you use proper wattage for lamps and lighting.
- 10) Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Test them monthly, change batteries annually and replace the unit every 10 years.

