



EcoWorks Healthy Home Audit

Instructions:

Your home is a place where you spend a lot of time, especially now while you are staying home and safe because of the COVID-19 outbreak. While you and your family are home, you are constantly using energy, water and, of course, breathing in your home's air. Did you know that there are things you and your family can do to save energy, save water and make the air in your home healthier that also help the environment? Answer the questions in this Healthy Home Audit to discover some opportunities for making your home healthier. Then, complete the Healthy Home Survey online at www.ecoworksdetroit.org/healthyhomes or over the phone at **(313) 483-7604** and EcoWorks will use your answers to make you a free kit of materials tailored to your home's specific needs that we will drop off at your door!

For more information on how to complete this Healthy Home Audit, check out the videos on our website: www.ecoworksdetroit.org/healthyhomes

Audit Questions:

1. Who is filling out this audit?

- I am a DPSCD student
 - I am on my school's Green Team
 - I am not on my school's Green Team
- I am a DPSCD parent
- We are filling this out as a DPSCD family
 - A member of our family is on their school's Green Team
 - No one in our family is a part of a Green Team
- Other: _____

2. What type of home do you live in?

- A single-family home
- An apartment building
- Other: _____

3. Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that has no color, smell or taste. It is most often produced in your home when you burn natural gas (often by using your stove, oven or furnace) and don't have enough ventilation. If there is too much carbon monoxide in the air in your home, it makes it hard for your body to get oxygen and can make you dizzy, nauseous or can even cause death. Carbon monoxide detectors look like smoke detectors (see photo) but instead of sensing heat or smoke, they sense carbon monoxide and alert you if there are dangerous levels of carbon monoxide in your home.



Look around your house for carbon monoxide detectors (see photo above) and push the test button on them to see if they still work. How many working carbon monoxide detectors do you have in your home?

- We don't have any working carbon monoxide detectors in our home
- We have one working carbon monoxide detector in our home
- We have more than one working carbon monoxide detector in our home
- Other: _____

4. Healthy Cleaning Supplies: Cleaning products like Clorox wipes and Lysol spray are very helpful in keeping our homes free of dangerous germs and viruses, however, some of them include chemicals like bleach or ammonia that can irritate our lungs and, for people that have asthma or other respiratory conditions, even make it hard to breathe.



Take a look at the 'active ingredients' in the cleaning product your family uses the most. Does it contain any of the following chemicals: 'ammonium chloride', bleach or sodium hypochlorite?

- Yes, my family's main cleaning product contains one of these chemicals
- No, my family's main cleaning product doesn't contain any of these chemicals
- My family does not have any cleaning products right now
- Other: _____

5. Toilet Flapper: A leaking toilet can be one of the 'sneakiest' leaks in your home and can waste hundreds of gallons of water without you noticing! Most often this happens because there is a leaking seal between the "tank" on the back of the toilet (the part the handle is attached to) and the "bowl" in the front of the toilet (the part you sit on).



There are two ways to tell if you have this sneaky leak in your toilet: first, you can just listen and watch your toilet. Does it sound like it is constantly "running" or dripping? Does the surface of the water in the bowl constantly ripple or move? If so, you have a leak! The second way to look for a sneaky leak is to carefully take the top off of the "tank" on the back of the toilet (have an adult help- it can be heavy!) and put 1-2 drops of food coloring in the water in the tank. Wait 15 minutes without flushing the toilet, then look in the "bowl". Is there any food coloring or colored water in the bowl? If so, you have a leak! How many toilets in your house have a 'sneaky leak'?

_____ (Number of toilets that have a 'sneaky leak')

6. Toilet Tank Bank: Flushing the toilet uses more water than any other water-using activity in the average home, including taking a shower or washing your clothes! The older your toilet is, the better the chance that your toilet is using more water than it needs to. An efficient toilet uses about 1.6 gallons of water per flush.

Check in green areas for any GPF markings



Take a look at the toilets in your home. Some toilets tell you on the lid or in the “tank” how much water they use per flush (called gallons per flush, or GPF), but not all. If your toilet says that it uses more than 1.6 gallons per flush OR if you think you could easily fit a 2-liter pop bottle in the tank without touching any of the levers in there, your toilet is probably using more water than it needs to. How many toilets in your house are using more than 1.6 gallons per flush?

_____ (Number of toilets using more than 1.6 gallons per flush)

7. Water-saving Showerhead: Showers account for about 22% of your water bill, which may be even higher if you have an older showerhead. If your showerhead is from before 1980, it uses 5 gallons of water per minute, compared to a water saving showerhead that uses only 1.5 gallons. For a 10 minute shower, an older showerhead would use 50 gallons, while a water saving showerhead would use only 15 gallons (a 70% difference)!



Look at the showerheads in your home. Some water-saving showerheads will have a label that tells you how many gallons of water they use per minute (for example, 1.6 GPM, or gallons per minute). If your showerhead does not have a label, grab a bucket or a pot and turn your shower on so that the water will be caught in the bucket or pot. Use a timer to count to one minute and then turn the water off (to save time and water, you can also count to 30 seconds and multiply the number of gallons by 2). Compare the amount of water in the bucket to the size of a milk jug (1 gallon) to estimate how many gallons per minute your shower uses. How many showers in your house are using more than 1.5 gallons per minute?

_____ (Number of showerheads using more than 1.5 gallons per minute)

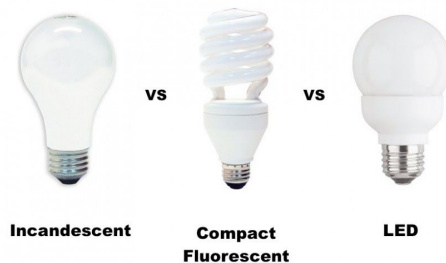
8. Water-saving Faucet Aerators: Aerators are small attachments that screw onto the end of a faucet, with a small screen inside to add air to the water flow, lowering how much water volume is being used. A faucet without an aerator, or with a very dated one, uses 5 gallons of water per minute, versus a water saving one that uses only 1 gallon of water (which saves you 80%)!



Look at the faucets in your home. Some water-saving faucets with aerators will have a label that tells you how many gallons of water they use per minute (for example, 1.0 GPM, or gallons per minute). If your faucet does not have a label, grab a bucket or a pot and turn your faucet on so that the water will be caught in the bucket or pot. Use a timer to count to one minute and then turn the water off. Compare the amount of water in the bucket to the size of a milk jug (1 gallon) to estimate how many gallons per minute your faucet uses. How many faucets in your house are using more than 1.0 gallons per minute?

_____ (Number of faucets using more than 1.0 gallons per minute)

9. LED Light Bulbs: Lighting and other small appliances (like TVs, computers and game systems) make up about 10% of the electricity usage in an average home. Turning lights and appliances off when you're not using them is a great way to save energy, but using more efficient light bulbs (light bulbs that provide the same amount of light, but use less energy) can be a great way to save a little extra.



Look at all the lightbulbs you can see in your house and compare them to the picture above (see photo). How many of your lightbulbs are the older, less efficient 'incandescent' bulbs?

_____ (Number of incandescent light bulbs)

10. Home Air Sealing: most of the energy you use in your home is used to heat and cool your home (an average of 60% of your energy!) Most homes, though, have small gaps or cracks in them that allow hot air to escape your home in the winter and cool air to escape your home in the summer, meaning your furnace or air conditioner has to work harder and use more energy to keep your home at the temperature you want. Limiting air leakage can help reduce energy waste and lower your energy bill! Air leaks most often occur around doors and windows.



DOORS: Some air leaks occur around the doors that lead to the outside of your home. Two easy ways to check for air leaks around your doors are:

- 1. Daylight Test:** Do this test when it is light outside (not at night!) Look at the bottom and sides of your door(s). Are there any cracks where light is coming through? If light is coming through, that is an air leak!
- 2. Wet Hand Test:** Our body is more sensitive to breezes when it is wet, which can help us detect cool air leaking into our home! Wet the palm of your hand with water. Then hold the wet palm of your hand around the edges of your door, both on the sides and on the bottom. If you feel a cool breeze against your wet hand, there is an air leak!

How many doors to the outside of your home have an air leak at the bottom of the door?

_____ (Number of outside doors with air leaks at the bottom)

How many doors to the outside of your home have an air leak around the sides of the door?

_____ (Number of outside doors with air leaks on the sides)

WINDOWS: Some air leaks occur around the windows and the window frame (the wood along the outside edges of a window). Two easy ways to check for air leaks around your windows are:

- 1. Wet Hand Test:** Our body is more sensitive to breezes when it is wet, which can help us detect cool air leaking into our home! Wet the palm of your hand with water. Then hold the wet palm of your hand around the edges of your window, both on the sides of the glass and around the wooden frame. If you feel a cool breeze against your wet hand, there is an air leak!
- 2. Toilet Paper Test:** Toilet paper is very thin and will “flutter” in even a slight breeze. Tear off a very small piece of toilet paper (about 2” long and 1” wide) and hold it around the edges of your window and window frame. If you see the toilet paper strip “flutter” in a breeze, there is an air leak!

How many windows in your home have an air leak around the sides of the glass or frame?

_____ (Number of windows that have air leaks on sides of glass or frame)

Do you already have clear, plastic insulation covering your windows?

- No, we don't have clear plastic over any windows
- Yes, we have clear, plastic insulation covering some windows, but other windows still have air leaks
- Yes, we have clear, plastic insulation covering all windows

You're finished with your audit! Now go to www.ecoworksdetroit.org/healthyhomes or call (313) 483-7604 to fill out the survey and request your free custom Healthy Homes kit!