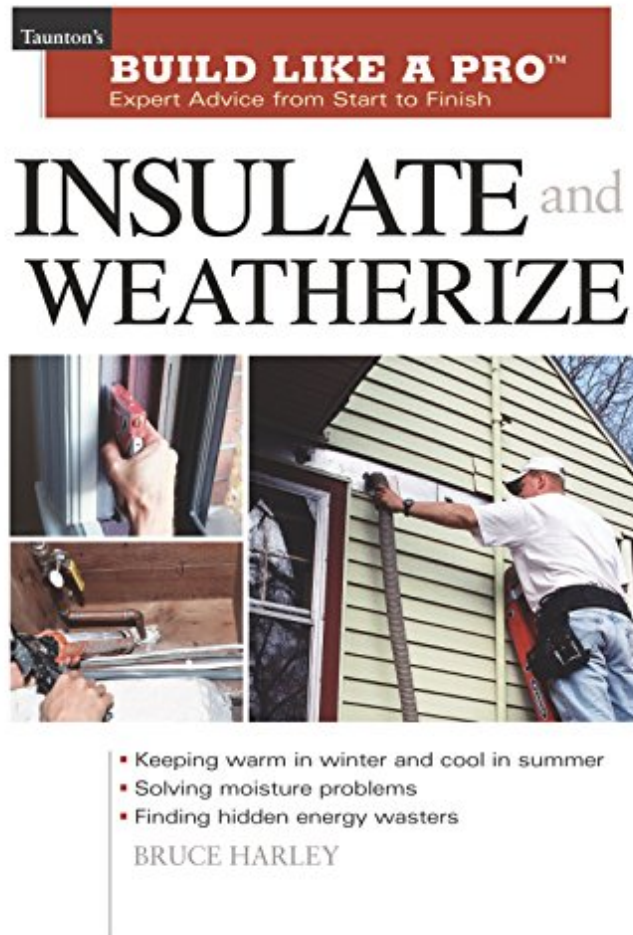


# Insulate and Weatherize: For Energy Efficiency at Home (Taunton's Build Like a Pro)

Bruce Harley

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**Bruce Harley : Insulate and Weatherize: For Energy Efficiency at Home (Taunton's Build Like a Pro)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Insulate and Weatherize: For Energy Efficiency at Home (Taunton's Build Like a Pro):

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Many pictures, too few detailsBy L. B. There is lots of information in this book, but for the most part it is too vague to help making decisions. The book avoids discussing any numbers, and its proscriptions are extremely vague. In some places the information is omitted, but no references are given where the interested reader can turn themselves to. Here are some examples:On page 11, book discusses "mean radiant temperature". It gets the definition slightly wrong (it is not the average of temperatures weighted by surface area, but

the average of fourth powers of temperatures in Kelvin weighted by subtended angles). Then it says that a room with a mean radiant temperature of 63f and air temperature of 70f is too cold, and the thermostat would need to be set higher. How much higher? In other words, how do we subjectively perceive the balance between air temperature and radiant temperature, and what is comfortable? The answer is not in the book (it is in ASHRAE Standard 55-2010). In particular, this temperature would be comfortable for a person in motion. On page 25, the book advises avoiding pay-back calculations and recommends considering instead the cost of financing a loan vs. energy savings. However, the book lacks any information on how to compute the said savings. Also, this view is too simplistic, since some of the investments that book discusses (mechanical ventilation system, heating/cooling systems) come with non-negligible maintenance and depreciation costs (i.e., the lifetime of the heating system might be less than the loan term). On page 31, the book speaks about venting the underside of the roof deck in "heavy snow areas". What qualifies as a heavy snow here? How do I tell if my house needs venting? On page 41, the author admits that he "consider[s] it most effective to create a good air barrier between basement and the outdoors by sealing the walls [...] even if you intend to insulate the floor over the basement". Similarly to many other opinions dispensed in the book, no justification is given. On page 65, the book devotes less than half a page to discussion of how much insulation is needed. The book does not even define R-value, saying only "higher is better". The book tells neither how to estimate the R-value of existing structure nor how to compute the effect of adding insulation. In short, the book is valuable for general inspiration, but lacks any actionable detail. Also, instead of a list of references, it has "Resources" section that consists mostly of names of companies, along with some green education websites.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. How to Save Money By Insulating and Weatherizing Your Home. By Conrad DuBois Insulate and Weatherize is another book on different approaches to saving energy. This book takes you through air sealing, insulating, caulking around doors and windows, different insulating materials, insulating siding and many aspects of tightening up your home for summer heat and winter chill. My house was built in 1994. My electrical and heating bills are up with the heating costs of houses built in 2010-2014. This is what knowledge will do for your heating bill if you put into practice what this book tells you about how you can tighten up your home. Stop paying the utilities all of your hard earned money and using this book save your money to spend on other goodies!

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book and worth every penny By John I purchased an old wooden home built about 1890 a few years ago. Other than some poorly installed blown fiberglass there wasn't any insulation in the house. I immediately started getting every book on insulating and energy efficiency that I could out of the library. This book was one of the last ones I read but it's the only one that I went back and purchased. It may not have step by step guides but what it does do is teach you about the basic mechanics of how your house works, which to me is more important than any step by step guide. It is not short on very specific advice either and also includes an excellent resource guide to purchase many of the things you will need to do the job. I have constantly referred back to this book as we slowly turn this leaky old home into a tight, energy efficient and more comfortable home. This book is for anyone looking to improve the energy efficiency of their home, even if you are just in the design stage. Many more subjects than just insulation are covered.

The appliances we use the lights we turn on these two items alone in our homes can account for upward of 40% of total energy dollars spent. For those who want to save money (and who doesn't?) by becoming more energy efficient and for those who want to go a step further and embrace the latest strategies in renewable and alternative energy systems Insulate and Weatherize is about to lead the way. It's been 10 years since the first edition of Insulate and Weatherize was a smash hit. In this completely revised and expanded edition, the advances in science and technology shine brightly to walk homeowners through the many solutions for basic energy, air-flow problems, heating and cooling systems, appliances and lights, mixed climate issues, and alternative energy strategies that are doable and extremely efficient. With Insulate and Weatherize at hand, home energy costs won't soar through the roof, especially if there's a solar panel or two on it.

From Library Journal Taunton has created its new "Build Like a Pro" series to help serious do-it-yourselfers perform projects of greater complexity than are usually covered in books for amateurs. An engineer who trains builders in energy-efficient construction, Harley offers a wealth of information that will allow readers to improve their home's efficiency, saving both money and natural resources. After an introductory section that explains the underlying principles of heat transfer, insulation, and air quality, Harley demonstrates basics such as weather-stripping and moves forward through advanced projects including insulation and major upgrades. Short "Pro Tips" as well as sections labeled "Trade Secrets," "What Can Go Wrong," and "In Detail" provide a great deal of helpful information. Increasing energy efficiency is one of the easiest ways for homeowners to save money, so this book is sure to be used. Other titles in this series include Windows and Doors, Painting and Finishing, Trim Carpentry and Built-ins, and Building a Deck. They are all good choices for any public library wanting to increase the depth of its home improvement collection. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

About the Author Bruce Harley is a noted expert on energy-efficient residential construction and renovation. A long-time engineer, he has helped diagnose and repair such varied problems as building air leakage, indoor air quality, HVAC system failures, plus combustion and

moisture issues. Bruce has also led national seminars on energy-efficient residential construction, codes, building science, and mechanical systems.