

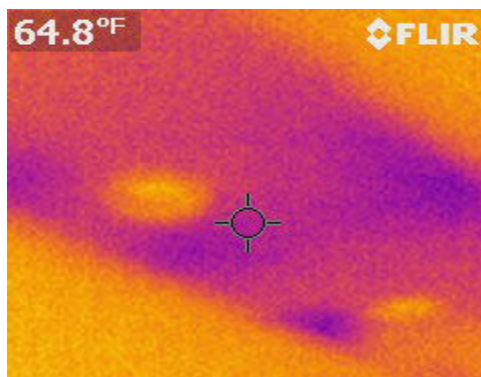
TOP AND BOTTOM - A ONE/TWO PUNCH FOR SAVINGS

In our quest for energy savings and comfort we have learned that both radiated heat (movement from hot to cold) and convected heat (warm air rising in relation to cooler air) are making our attics a little too comfortable. Remember that if we have chosen to insulate the floor and ventilate the attic (soffit vents under the eaves, ridge vents on top, and or gable vents in the side walls) any opening to the attic is an opening to the “outside” of the house. Look at your ceiling under the attic and count the number of “holes”. Attic hatch or pull down stairs, recessed light fixtures, heating cooling grills, ceiling fans, light fixtures - you get the idea. There are a lot of holes in most of our homes that unless properly sealed are keeping our attics nice and warm and fuel costs high.

Typical “holey” ceiling



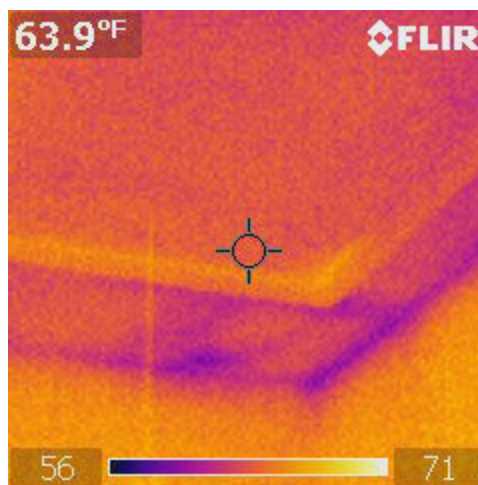
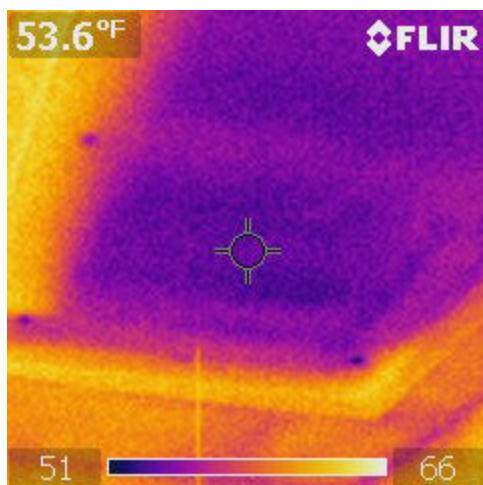
Heat loss in winter will also be heat gain in the summer



The culprit! It all adds up.



A simple insulated hatch cover has made a 10 degree difference in this section of ceiling. Add in caulking and covering recessed lights and the next time you go into the attic remember to wear your coat! The great thing about these covers is that they also work wonders in the summer as they keep the hot attic air from radiating into the house (remember - heat moves towards cold in any direction!)



Now to the bottom. Even if done poorly, the builder always seems to make an attempt to insulate the attic. But the bottom of the house, either a full basement or crawlspace doesn't always get the same courtesy. Especially in a crawlspace, if it is vented (openings in the foundation wall that allow outside air to circulate) then the ceiling needs to be insulated. But that's only half the job. What we've learned through diagnostic testing (building science) is that sealing the rim joist and sill plate are just as, if not more important, because it helps stop the airflow. (The rim joist and sill are the part of the flooring system that rests on the foundation, surrounds the house, and is in contact with the outside air). Any heat reaching the rim joist is lost to the outside. The photos below show an exposed sill plate and rim joist, a poorly insulated ceiling (the thermal images show about the same heat loss in both, and a foamed rim and wall system that can made a big difference in both heat loss and drafts..



The thermal image shows the line where the work was stopped as a major difference in heat loss. The left side of the foundation has not yet been completed and the right side only has one inch of insulation so far (it will get 3 inches). It really works!

THERE WILL BE MANY MORE ARTICLES AND VIDEOS ON THESE TOPICS IN THE FUTURE. SO...COME ON BACK!

