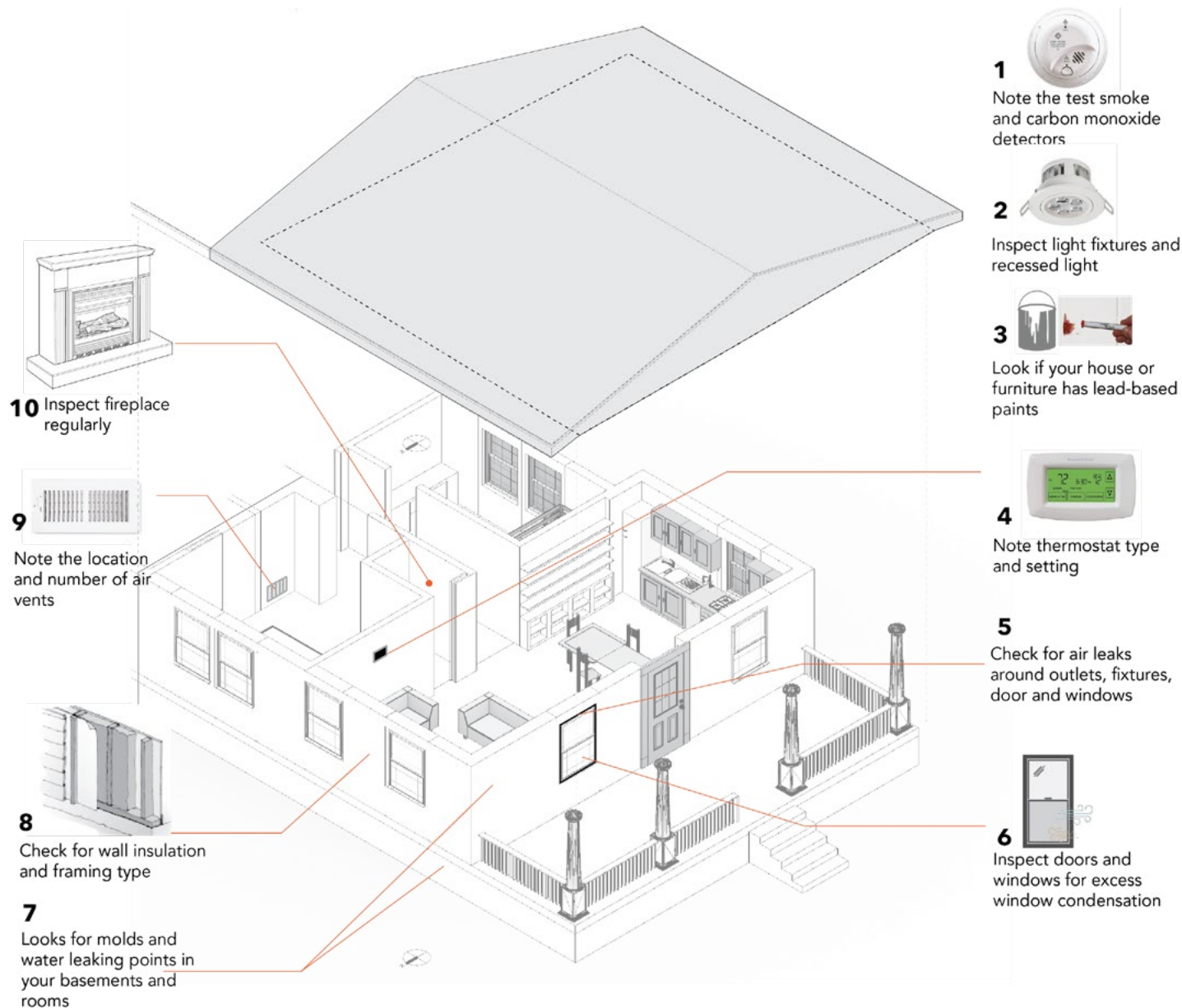


# DO A PRE-ASSESSMENT

PINPOINT WHERE YOUR HOUSE IS LOSING ENERGY AND ADDRESS ISSUES

YOU COULD SAVE 5-30% ON YOUR ENERGY BILL AND ABOUT 10% ON YOUR WATER BILL



**1**  Note the test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

**2**  Inspect light fixtures and recessed light

**3**  Look if your house or furniture has lead-based paints

**4**  Note thermostat type and setting

**5** Check for air leaks around outlets, fixtures, door and windows

**6**  Inspect doors and windows for excess window condensation

**10** Inspect fireplace regularly

**9** Note the location and number of air vents

**8** Check for wall insulation and framing type

**7** Looks for molds and water leaking points in your basements and rooms

## 1 Locate air leaks




- Check for **indoor air leaks**- such as gaps along baseboard or edge of the flooring and at junctures of walls and ceilings.
- Check for **outdoor leaks**- like the areas where two building materials meet.
- Check for leaks in **windows, doors, lighting and plumbing fixtures, switches, and electric outlets.**
- Check for **open fireplace dampers.**

## 2 Consider ventilation

- Check for **Backdrafting.** Backdrafting is when various combustion appliances and exhaust fans in the home compete for fresh air and leads to an explosion. The exhaust fan may pull all the combustion gases back into the living spaces leading to increased carbon monoxide levels indoors.
- Check **air supply in homes where fuel is burned.** Inspect your appliance vent collar for burn marks or soot, or visible smoke anywhere in utility room while the appliance is operating. This indicates poor draft, contact your local utility company, energy professional, or ventilation contractor for further advice.
- Inspect Heating and Cooling Equipment.** Inspect your equipment annually or as recommended by the manufacturer. If you have a forced-air furnace, check your filters and replace them as needed. It is advised to change them once every month or two, especially during high use. If the equipment is older than 15 years, you should consider replacing the system for an energy efficient unit.
- Check your **air ducts** for streaks as these may be a sign of air leaks. These gaps should be sealed with duct mastic. Insulate ducts with R-6 insulation value.

## 3 Lighting

- Examine the **light bulbs in your house** and consider switching to LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs which consume less energy than CFL or incandescent bulbs. Check out rebate programs by Georgia Power to buy efficient light bulbs at lower prices.

			
Avg. Life	25,000 Hrs	8,000 Hrs	1,200 Hrs
Energy	84% Less	75% Less	90% Lost to Heat

## 4 Appliances and Electronics

Examine your appliances and keep a watch on how you use them. By considering some of the following steps, you can reduce energy use:

- 1. **Unplugging appliances when not in use**
- 2. **Changing the settings or limit the usage**
- 3. **Purchasing energy-star fixtures or other efficient products**
- 4. **Switch to smart home energy management systems to monitor and control energy consumption.**

## 3 Professional energy audit

- Once the **preliminary assessment is done, consider calling a professional** to inspect your home and provide solutions to improve the condition of your home. GA Power's Home Energy Improvement Program offers rebates for individual improvements (50% cost up to \$600 per year) and whole house improvement (50% cost up to \$1150 per year).

Although professional energy assessment (or energy audit) is the best way to assess areas for energy reduction, you can conduct your own simple but diligent walk-through and spot many problems in any type of house. This will help in pinpointing easier areas to address.

Try Georgia Power's estimated energy check-up tool to know your energy use and ways to save money

This checklist was created in collaboration with the Flourishing Communities Collaborative at Georgia Tech  
For more information, please visit:  
[fc2.design.gatech.edu](http://fc2.design.gatech.edu)

