

# Energy Saver Kit

## Material Step-by-Step Installation Guide

Thank you for participating in Green Iowa AmeriCorps' Energy Saver Kit program. This kit has been personalized for you and your home's energy efficiency needs. Below, you will find some general information on the materials that may be included in your kit, as well as instructions on how to install them. *Please note that, depending on how you answered our questions when you either signed up or were being signed up, your kit may not include one or more of the items mentioned below.*

### LED Light Bulbs

Our LED light bulbs are known as 60-watt equivalents, in that they produce the same amount of light as a standard 60-watt incandescent light bulb, except that they produce that light using only 9 watts of energy rather than 60 watts. The bulbs included in your kit give off a yellow light color (2700 k color temperature).

Our LED bulbs will work with some dimmer switches but not all. Always test to make sure the lights are working properly in each fixture prior to reattaching any light coverings. To gain the maximum benefit in switching out your old bulbs, install the LED bulbs in your most frequently used light fixtures, such as those found in your kitchen, living room, or bedrooms.



### High-Efficiency Sink Faucet Aerators



Our sink faucet aerators can be installed in your kitchen or bathroom faucets to reduce the amount of water that flows out of the head of the faucet without changing the water pressure. If your sink faucet has a built-in aerator, our sink faucets will not work. Most aerators use between 2 and 2.5 gallons of water per minute; the included aerators use 1 gallon of water per minute. *Before unscrewing the existing aerator, examine the outside of it for hard-water buildup or rust. If you have either of these, we recommend leaving your existing aerator on the faucet. **Never force the***

**old aerator off, because you may cause serious damage to your faucet.**

The included sink faucet aerators have two rubber gaskets, as well as screw threads on both the inside and the outside. After you fully screw on the new aerator, turn on the water. If you see water coming out of the sides, unscrew the aerator, add or remove one or both of the rubber gaskets, reattach the aerator, and try again.

## High-Efficiency Showerhead Aerator



Like the sink faucet aerators, our showerhead aerator uses less water but is able to maintain the same water pressure. It does this by mixing the water stream with more air. Our showerhead aerators use 1.25 gallons of water per minute, are mounted on the wall, and allow you to choose between several different water stream modes. *Before unscrewing your existing showerhead aerator, examine around the threads for any hard-water buildup or rust. If you have either of these things, we recommend leaving your existing showerhead in place.*



After attaching the new showerhead aerator to the pipe coming out of the wall, check for leaks around the threads of the aerator. Add or remove the black rubber gasket as needed to get a good, tight fit.

## Water Heater Pipe Insulation



These black, foam tube insulators are to be placed on the first 3 feet of the hot-water pipe coming out of the top of the water heater. This is the highest priority area to insulate. Exercise caution when touching the pipes, as they may be hot to the touch. The foam tubes have a pre-cut slit in them. Where the slit is located, pull the two sides of the slit apart and wrap the tube around the hot-water line. Use scissors to cut the tubes to fit the pipe, as needed. Secure the foam tubes to the water pipes using the zip ties provided. **The goal is a snug fit but not a tight fit.**

## Furnace Filter Whistle

Furnace filters should be changed regularly to maintain healthy indoor air quality and to make your furnace last longer. The included furnace filter whistle is blue in color and is made of plastic. The whistle is reusable and makes an audible whistling sound when your filter gets too clogged, letting you know when it is time to change out your furnace filter.

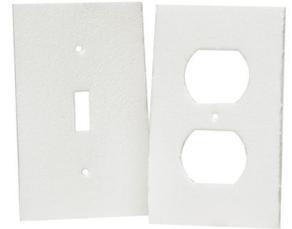
The whistle comes in two pieces and must be installed in a certain way for it to work properly. The larger cylinder piece will face the direction of the airflow on one side of the filter. The flat, circle piece will match up on the other side of the filter. The two pieces snap together such that the filter material is in-between the two pieces.



# Electrical Outlet and Light Switch Foam Gasket Insulators



On windy days, have you ever put your hand up to a light switch or electrical outlet and felt cold air coming through the wall? That is where these foam gasket insulators come in. They go behind the plastic plates of your electrical outlets or light switches and can help prevent some of that air movement. *To see the most benefit, install these insulators behind the plastic plates of outlets and light switches on perimeter walls, that is those walls that separate the inside of your home from the outside.*



To install, unscrew the cover plate of the outlet or light switch you wish to insulate. Remove the sections of the insulator where your outlet or light switch needs to go through. Place the insulator on the cover plate, making sure it lines up correctly. You may need to trim the insulator down for it to fit inside the cover. Replace the cover plate and screw it back onto the wall.

## Rope Caulk



Rope caulk can be used to fill gaps primarily around windows, as a temporary measure to stop air flow. Rope caulk sticks in place and can be removed easily. First, clean the area where you will use the rope caulk, to prevent any dirt or grime from making the rope caulk less sticky and, as a result, less able to seal properly. Next, tear off the amount of rope caulk you need to fill the space. Finally, firmly press the strand of rope caulk into the gap or crack you wish to fill.

## Window Insulation Kit

Similar to the rope caulk, a plastic film window insulation kit is a temporary measure designed to stop air flow through a drafty window or door. To install, you will need a pair of scissors, a stool or step ladder, and a hair dryer or heat gun. First, clean off and wipe dry the outer frame of the window on which you want to cover with the plastic film. Install the plastic only on metal, painted wood, or vinyl. With the included roll of double-sided tape and scissors, attach a length of tape on all four sides of the outer frame, with the tape overlapping at the corners.



Unroll the plastic film and make sure that it does fit over the entire area of the window. You want approximately 2 inches of overhang on all four sides of the window. Remove the paper backing of the tape that has been attached to the outer frame of the window. Starting in the upper-left or upper-right corner of the top edge, press the plastic wrap onto the tape. Work your way down one side and then the other. Finally, press the bottom edge onto the tape. Using a heat gun or hair dryer, start at the top edge and run the heat source over the part of the plastic on top of the tape. You should see the plastic start to shrink. After finishing the top, do the two sides, and then the bottom edge. If you notice waves in the plastic, run the heat source over the waves to shrink the plastic more.



**When installing, always hold the heat source at least 4-6 inches away from the plastic film. Holding the heat source too long in a single area will melt the plastic and create a hole.** *The ideal goal is, when you are looking out the window, you should not notice that the plastic is even there.* Trim excess film from around the frame, after all four edges of the plastic have been adhered to the tape.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

**Q: Why did I not get a certain item? / Why did I only get a small number of a certain item?**

Each kit is customized, based on the answers you gave us to the questions that were asked during the initial intake process. Our utility partners have placed a restriction on us in that we can only include items that you indicated that you need, not necessarily items that you would like to have.

**Q: Why is my aerator leaking? / What should I do if my current aerator is stuck?**

Hard-water buildup or rust may prevent a proper fit of the aerator. You can try brushing or completely soaking the end of the faucet with vinegar to break down any hard-water buildup.

**Q: How can I get a more comprehensive home evaluation?**

Using the contact information below, please call or email us to see if we can do a free in-home energy audit for you. During an audit, we use professional equipment to identify air leaks around your home. If our test shows your home is excessively leaky, we will use a variety of weatherization and air-sealing measures to seal your home up for you. Like the audit, any weatherization and air-sealing measures we install in your home are free. We have designed these services to have as little a burden as possible on you.

**Email:** [greeniowaCF@gmail.com](mailto:greeniowaCF@gmail.com)      **Phone:** 319-273-7233

