



# Energy Saver Kit

## Material Step-by-Step Installation Guide

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

### 1. LED Light Bulbs

- a. Our LED light bulbs are known as 60-watt equivalents, which produce the same amount of light as a 60-watt incandescent light bulb. LEDs, however, typically only use 8-10.5-watts of electricity to produce this same amount of light.
- b. Our LEDs can fit into any standard light bulb socket, so no changes to your light fixture will be necessary. Our LEDs do not work with dimmer switches. However, there are LEDs that do work with dimmer switches. Always test to make sure that the LEDs work properly in each fixture prior to reattaching any light coverings.
- c. To gain the maximum benefit of switching your old bulbs to the included LEDs, install the new bulbs in your most frequently used light fixtures, such as those found in your kitchen or living room.



### 2. High-Efficiency Sink Faucet Aerators

- a. Our high-efficiency sink faucet aerators can be installed in your kitchen or bathroom faucets to reduce the amount of water that flows out of your sink, while keeping the same water pressure.
- b. To install a sink aerator, follow the steps below:
  - i. Remove the existing one from your faucet. These should simply screw off, but if they are coated with lime buildup, you can use vinegar to help break apart the buildup.



- ii. Determine which set of threads the aerator will use to attach to your faucet. The included aerators have threads on both the outside and the inside. If the sink uses the outside threads, no additional steps are needed. If the sink uses the inside threads, you will need to remove the top rubber washer to install the aerator properly.
- iii. Once fully screwed on, test the aerator to make sure a tight seal was achieved.
- c. **Note:** Significant lime buildup or rust can inhibit your ability to remove the old aerator to replace it.

### 3. High-Efficiency Showerhead Aerator

- a. Like the sink aerator, the showerhead aerator uses less water but maintains the same water pressure. It does this by mixing the water stream with more air.
- b. Always check for leaks around the threads of the aerator. Add or remove the black rubber washers as needed to get a good fit.
- c. If your kit did not include a showerhead aerator, it is because you indicated that you have a showerhead you can hold. Our showerhead aerators are wall-mounted, and homeowners we have previously worked with prefer their hand-held showerhead aerator to ours.



### 4. Water Heater Pipe Insulation

- a. These foam tube insulators are to be placed on the first foot of the hot- and cold-water lines of the water heater. This is the highest priority area to insulate. Use caution when touching the pipes, as they may be hot to the touch.
- b. Use scissors to cut the insulation to fit the pipes as needed.
- c. Secure the insulation to the pipes with the zip ties provided. You want a snug fit but not a tight fit.



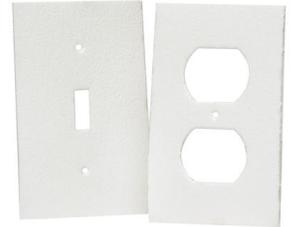
### 5. Furnace Filter Whistle

- a. As your furnace filter gets clogged, the furnace filter whistle starts whistling, letting you know it is time to change out your filter to keep your furnace running efficiently.
- b. The whistle is reusable and can be attached to your filter when you replace it.
- c. The furnace whistle comes in two pieces. 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 and snap together with the filter material in-between.
- d. Proceed with installing your filter as you normally would with the whistle attached.



## 6. Outlet/Light Switch Insulators

- a. These foam insulators go behind the plastic plates of your electrical outlets and light switches and can block air flow. To see the most benefit, install these insulators behind the plates of outlets and light switches on perimeter walls, that is those walls that separate the inside of your home from the outside.
- b. To install:
  - i. Remove the sections of the insulator where your outlet or light switch needs to go through.
  - ii. Unscrew the outlet or light switch cover plate using a screwdriver.
  - iii. 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.
  - iv. Replace the cover plate and screw it back onto the wall.



## 7. Rope Caulk

- a. Rope caulk can be used to fill gaps mainly around windows but also doors, as a temporary measure to stop air flow. It sticks into place and can be removed easily.
- b. To install:
  - i. Clean the area where you will use the rope caulk, to prevent any dirt or grime from making the rope caulk less sticky and, therefore, less able to seal properly.
  - ii. Tear off the amount of rope caulk you need to fill the space.
  - iii. Firmly press the caulk into the gap or crack you want filled.



## 8. Expandable Spray Foam

- a. Spray foam is used to seal larger gaps and cracks in spaces, such as a basement. Spray foam is not typically used in common areas of a home, because it is orange and looks out of place.
- b. Follow the instructions on the can to use this product properly. **Caution:** Spray Foam is permanent and can stain anything it comes into contact with, such as clothing.
- c. If your kit did not include spray foam, it is because you indicated that either you didn't have a basement or that your basement does not have any gaps or cracks where you think air or water may be entering.



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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

A: Each kit is customized, based on the answers you gave us to the questions we asked you during the initial intake process. Furthermore, 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 are my new LEDs flickering?**

A: Variable-current light fixtures, such as dimmers, do not play well with common LED bulbs, and a specialty LED is needed to work with these fixtures. You may reuse your previous bulbs, if our LEDs do not work for you.

### **Q: Why is my aerator leaking?**

A: Lime buildup or rust may prevent a proper fit of the aerator. Lime buildup can be removed by brushing it with vinegar to break it down. If a faucet is rusted, it may be difficult to get a proper fit.

### **Q: What should I do if my current aerator is stuck?**

A: If soaking your current aerator in vinegar does not break up any lime buildup that may be present, we highly recommend you leave the current aerator as is. Any large amount of force can result in damage to your current aerator or faucet.

### **Q: How come my light switch/outlet cover plate doesn't fit properly with the insulation panel?**

A: You may need to use scissors to trim the insulation panel to better fit your specific cover plate.

### **Q: What if I have a light switch/outlet panel that has multiple lightswitches/outlets?**

A: You may use multiple insulation panels to cover one big lightswitch/outlet cover plate. Some trimming may be necessary for a proper fit.

### **Q: How can I get a more comprehensive home evaluation once the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided?**

A: Feel free to call us or send us an email using the contact information below.

Thank you for participating in our Energy Saver Kit program supported by MidAmerican Energy, Alliant Energy, and Cedar Falls Utilities. If you have any questions about installing certain items included in your kit, please feel free to contact us:

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