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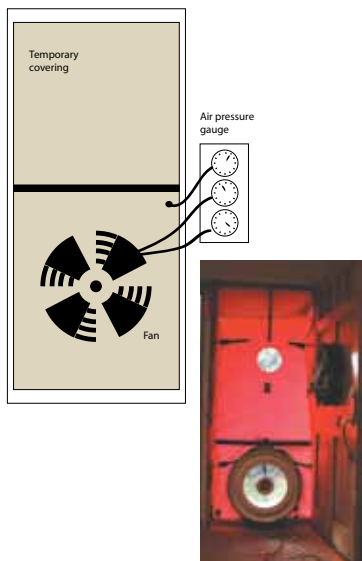


Blower door tests: Measure energy loss

When seeking to improve energy efficiencies of a home, a blower door test is often employed before and after improvements. The test checks to see if air sealing is effective. The fan is mounted on the frame of an exterior door and pulls air out of the house, lowering the pressure inside. The higher outside air pressure then flows in through all the unsealed cracks and openings. A gauge measures the differences between the inside and outside pressure and a manometer measures airflow. That measurement is the “air tightness” of the structure—the primary factor in determining infiltration and air leakage.

After energy efficiency improvements are made, a second test is conducted to determine the energy savings achieved. If the second test still reveals leakage, further investigation is conducted, additional improvements made, followed by a third test to confirm success.

In addition to improved energy efficiencies, a home is more comfortable, with even heating throughout. Call Kyle Dube for an evaluation of your home. Learn how to save energy and money!



Too small to succeed

When Bolton homeowners, John and Debbie, were ready to update their tiny kitchen, they turned to Kyle Dube of Project Plus Builders. Since the couple had worked with Kyle before, they were confident that he was the contractor to call.

The homeowners envisioned a kitchen to live in—not work in. Their older kitchen was poorly laid out, inefficient and desperately lacked adequate storage and countertop space. They wanted a bright and airy space, plenty of storage, a large counter for projects, seating for conversation and quick meals.

After evaluating the existing kitchen, and several design drafts, it was apparent that the space just wasn't large enough to accommodate all the homeowners' wishes.

The solution was a 15' x 16' foot addition with cathedral ceilings, large bumped out windows and two skylights.

“We knew what we wanted,” John said. “We picked out the cabinets and countertops. I think Kyle will agree, we were easy to work with.”

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Ample storage is provided by plenty of Brookhaven cabinets, as well as two floor-to-ceiling pantries. A large uninterrupted expanse of granite countertops make meal preparation a joy instead of a chore.

The center island with Silestone countertop in an accenting color adds even more work space and doubles as a seating area for keeping the cook company during meal preparation or for eating.



A French door leads to a small deck, set up for grilling. Three whimsical windows in the upper gables add an appealing touch.

The older kitchen was converted to an entry way, complete with an office work area.

“Kyle is wonderful to work with,” Debbie said. “He is very flexible and we have recommended him to several other people. We love our kitchen, especially the unlimited storage and countertop space. The addition also improved the traffic flow in our home.”

Additions are a cost effective solution to expanding a home’s living space. No need to move in this housing market—instead make your home more livable and enjoy it for many more years. Give Kyle Dube a call to explore if an addition is a viable option for your home.



Before photo



Get paid for energy efficiency!

Massachusetts has a liberal energy tax incentive program available. Not only do homeowners enjoy a more comfortable home after lessening their energy consumption, a real savings in utility bills are realized—and as an added bonus, tax credits and utility rebates apply! A win-win for homeowners and the environment!

Many home improvements qualify for **utility rebates**, including NSTAR’s program:

- Air-source Heat Pumps: \$500
- Central Air Conditioning: \$500
- Heating System Controls: \$100
- Programmable Thermostats: \$25
- Replacement Windows: \$10 per unit
- Furnaces: \$300 - \$400
- High Efficiency Oil or Propane Heating Systems: \$500
- Boilers: \$400 - \$500
- Indirect and On-demand Water Heaters: \$300

In addition to utility company rebates, **Federal tax incentives** for 30% of cost up to \$1500 (expires 2010) apply for:

- Biomass stoves
- Heating & Cooling Systems (HVAC)
- Insulation
- Roofing (Metal & Asphalt)
- Water Heaters
- Windows and Doors

In addition to these programs, a number of regional incentives exist. Visit this website for more information:

www.dsireusa.org/incentives/homeowner.cfm?state=MA&re=1&ee=1

“These programs should be considered when making choices for home improvement,” said Kyle Dube, owner of Project Plus Builders. “By combining Federal and State utility programs, homeowners can literally get thousands in



incentive dollars, improve their home comfort, increase the value of their home, and help our environment.”

Project Plus Builders has seen a very positive response, and significant costs savings, for homeowners due to the installation of tankless gas boiler systems.

“Get hot water when you want it — and only pay for it when you use it,” Kyle said. “Unlike antiquated hot water tanks that heat and reheat the same water 24 hours a day, this is a more efficient way to heat water. It’s a tankless system that heats water quickly and delivers an endless supply of hot water for as long as you need it. When hot water is needed, a tankless system senses the demand for hot water and activates the gas burner system. It instantly takes the temperature of the incoming water and adjusts the gas burners to efficiently heat the water to your desired temperature.”

Kyle suggests that when considering home improvements, look to the larger picture: improving the environment, improving a home’s resale value, reducing yearly operating costs, and qualifying for rebates and tax incentives. Call Project Plus Builders today to save energy and money for years to come!