

Comfort and convenience:

Add . . .

- ✓ low-upkeep landscaping
- ✓ cordless phone
- ✓ automatic garage door opener

Energy efficiency:

Install . . .

- ✓ storm windows, double-paned windows
- ✓ weather-stripping and other insulation
- ✓ more efficient heating, air conditioning
- ✓ insulation on water heater, pipes
- ✓ more efficient appliances

High Priority	Low Priority	Doesn't Apply

Part II: Checklist for Hiring a Contractor

If you're planning to hire a contractor or handyman, be sure to do your homework first!

- Get recommendations from friends, family, reputable local merchants or trusted online review sites.
- Make certain the contractor is bonded and licensed.
- Ask for at least three recent customer references, then call each one.
- Check with the Better Business Bureau, state consumer affairs office, and local licensing board, if applicable.
- Get the price, completion date, scope of work, and other details in writing.
- If appropriate, ask for two or more bids, then compare. (Remember, the lowest bid isn't necessarily the best.)

Notes
