

AUTUMN 2022

AT HOME WITH ELM

Kitchen Remodeling, Basement Renovations, Additions & More



Energy-Efficient Design & Systems

Feature article inside

Semi-Open Concept Design

Open concept homes used to be all the rage. Homeowners with older homes where each room was closed off from one another would ask us to knock down walls to create one huge open space.

It was a great idea and created a much more welcoming and inclusive home floor plan, but home trends are changing again. Now that we are using our homes differently, and families need to be more purposeful, an open concept home may not work for everyone.

Enter the semi-open concept.

The semi-open concept floor plan has plenty of open spaces, but each living space is clearly defined. So instead of having one large space with a kitchen, dining table, sofa and TV, you may have a kitchen with an island area next to an archway that leads to a living room. The spaces aren't closed off from one another, but they are clearly defined and allow for some privacy while not isolating anyone.

The shift away from the open concept came about during the pandemic. Homeowners who had to work from home while their kids were doing school online quickly learned

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Energy-Efficient Design in Remodeling

When it's time to make improvements to your home, why not choose upgrades that are energy efficient? Having an energy-efficient home is great for the environment and has numerous benefits for you and your family.

Let's look at some of the most significant benefits of including upgrades that will make your home more energy efficient:



Increased Comfort

Having an energy-efficient home will mean the temperature stays consistent in every part of the home, which makes your home more comfortable.

One of the biggest complaints we hear from homeowners with older homes that do not have energy-efficient upgrades is that the temperature inside the home varies from room to room. One room is freezing cold, while the other feels like a sauna. While it may seem like a minor inconvenience in the grand scheme, it isn't very pleasant.

When you include energy-efficient upgrades like dual-pane windows or spray foam insulation, the hot or cold air in the room won't escape as easily and will allow you to feel more comfortable.

Lower Utility Bills

Everything is more expensive than it used to be so it's a great idea to have your home in optimal condition and won't let anything go to waste. With an energy-efficient home, you'll be able to cut some costs on your monthly utility bills.

Lighting, electricity, and water heating tend to be the most



significant energy expenses for the average homeowner, so upgrading these systems to a more energy-efficient model can save as much as 30 percent on your monthly energy bill. That's huge!

Improved Air Quality

Depending on where you live, the air quality may not be great. Breathing in polluted air inside your home can lead to health problems like coughs, sore throats, allergies, and more. But, that air started outside your home and, since energy-efficient homes require less energy to be produced, this can reduce pollutants everywhere.

Additionally, running your air conditioner or heater all the time can have a negative effect on your indoor air quality, but an energy-efficient home won't need to run these systems as long or as often.

Increased Home Value

Something else to consider is that upgrading to energy-efficient home systems will lead to a higher sales price when it comes time to sell your home. Energy efficiency is quickly becoming the standard in new home design, so if you want to compete with other homes on the market, these upgrades will be a must.

Energy efficient homes are more desirable to home buyers since home buyers today are more environmentally conscious. The eco-friendly, cost-saving upgrades will attract more buyers to your home and maximize your return on investment when the time comes.

If you'd like more information on what is needed for an energy efficient home, give us a call. We would love to look at your home and determine areas that could use some energy-efficient updates.



Improve Energy-Efficiency in Your Home

The benefits of an energy-efficient home extend beyond the environmental aspects. You'll save money on your bills and may also see an improvement in your overall health. Here are a few ideas to make your home more energy efficient:

Insulation

Hidden inside the walls of your home is insulation. You might not see it, but it is important to keep your home at an optimal temperature and outside sounds out of your home.

The most energy-efficient insulation is spray foam since it is made of organic chemical compounds and can expand to fit every single crevice. This will ensure that no outside air will get into your home through the attic, which will help reduce the amount of energy used for heating and cooling.

Windows

Your windows play a huge role in the energy efficiency of your home. If you have single-paned or damaged windows,



there's little chance your home will maintain a comfortable temperature, requiring you to crank up the a/c or heating system. Replacing your windows can be an investment, but the benefits are endless.

Roofing

An energy-efficient roof will also help you save on energy bills. Choosing an energy-efficient roofing material, like metal or tile, will help keep your home at a comfortable temperature and have longer lifespans than other roofing materials. As an added bonus, a new, energy-efficient roof will increase your home's value.

Get An Energy Audit

If you really aren't sure where to start, consider an energy audit on your home. An energy audit analyzes how energy flows in your home to determine its energy efficiency. Once the audit is completed, you will know how to reduce the amount of energy your home is using by identifying inefficient systems that should be replaced in order to improve comfort and the health and safety of you and your family.

Give us a call and let us help you start improving the energy-efficiency of your home today.

Energy-Efficient Systems

Your home is full of systems that can be upgraded and improved to make your home more energy efficient. Let's look at a few other systems you may want to consider including in your upgrade.

Tankless Water Heater

Traditional water heater continuously keeps your water heated but tankless water heaters only heat as much water as is needed. A tankless water heater is up to 22 percent more efficient than traditional water heaters and have a longer lifespan. The traditional units lasts about ten years, whereas a tankless systems can last twice as long.

Hi-efficiency Furnace and AC

If you have an older furnace or AC, upgrading to a new hi-efficiency system may be worth it. These new systems have variable compressors that keep your home at a



comfortable temperature for longer periods without running constantly. These systems are not as loud, less expensive to run, and have better filtration making the air in your home cleaner.

Radiant Heating

Radiant heating systems heat a home through the floor. They are more energy-efficient than HVAC systems since there is no risk of the heat escaping. Plus, the warm floors feel so nice on your feet during the cold winter.

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Semi-Open Concept Design

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that the open concept design made daily tasks much more difficult. If one person needed to be on a zoom call, nobody else could watch TV or make a snack in the kitchen because it would interfere.

With the semi-open concept, family members have alternative living spaces where they can relax while others work. Semi-open concept design allows for easy design and creativity within the clearly defined spaces.

So before you ask a contractor to start knocking down walls, think about how you really live in your home, and how it can better reflect your lifestyle. This is how we encourage all of our clients to approach their remodeling projects. We can help you think through the possibilities, and work with you to create a design that you'll love.

Is the semi-open concept right for your home and your family? To find out, let's talk about how we can make the semi-open concept work for you.



See Our Kitchen Gallery

Point your phone's camera at this QR code to visit our online gallery

