

# Weatherization vs. Remodeling

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a federal program managed by the North Carolina Department of Environment of Natural Resources. It is designed to help residents who meet federal low-income guidelines to lower their energy usage and costs. This is achieved by home weatherization and client education.



Weatherizing a home involves conducting an energy assessment to identify the most cost-effective energy improvements that need to be performed on the dwelling, and then making those improvements at no cost to the household.

The three major improvements performed in home weatherization are:

- 1) Reducing excessive air infiltration
- 2) Reducing heat loss through attics, walls and floors
- 3) Tuning or otherwise making the heating and air systems more efficient

The Weatherization Program is not a remodeling, maintenance or rehabilitation program. The amount that can be spent on each dwelling is limited. Incidental repairs to the home are made only to facilitate the installation and preservation of weatherization material not to improve the value of a home.

As a rule the Weatherization Program does not install windows or doors. On rare occasion a primary window may be installed, but only when necessary to reduce significant air leakage. This is considered a low priority activity because it is not as cost-effective as other improvements, such as attic, wall and floor insulation and locating and sealing air leakage sites. Program regulations prohibit the substitution of low priority measures for more cost-effective ones.

Typical improvements requested that are not allowable include window and door replacements, roof or siding replacements, mobile home skirting, painting and mold remediation.

Those applying for Weatherization who assumes their home will be remodeled or repaired often become frustrated. Other programs are better suited for remodeling or quick repair purposes. Other housing or human services agency should be contacted for home rehabilitation needs.

## **ACTION PATHWAYS**

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*For more information contact NC DENR at 1-877-623-6748*