



Doing Your Own Home Assessment

The following pages are worksheets that we use as a guide when performing home assessments. Print out one of the exterior worksheets and one of the Interior worksheets for each room in your home.

Walk around the outside of your home and see it with new eyes, looking for things that will compromise the energy efficiency like unshaded windows and gaps in the external cladding, especially around doors and windows, that may lead to draughts inside. Think about where you could install rainwater tanks and what you could use the water for.

Spend some time looking at your roof with one of the online mapping tools and think about how much of it you could fill with solar panels to generate electricity. You'll need to consider the practical aspects like directions faced and area available, shading from trees and neighbours as well as possible legal aspects such as heritage overlays or body corporate rules. Call some reputable solar providers (like EnviroGroup 1300 430 430) and get some quotes to compare.

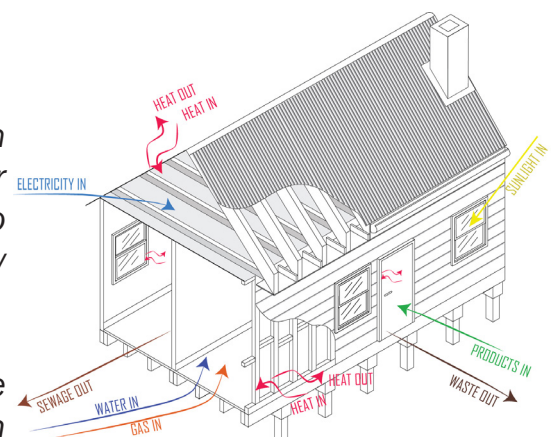
Next, work your way through each room looking at the aspects covered on the worksheet, observing details and taking notes. Look for things like dust lines in the frames of doors and windows as evidence of draughts and gaps where you can see daylight around external doors. Don't worry too much about analysing your findings yet or thinking about what to do about them, focus purely on observation. Think about how each room feels at different times of year, which rooms get particularly hot or cold and try to work out why.

This doesn't have to be done all in one session, you can spread it over a few days if it's a bit much to take in all at once. You could also try 'swapping' home assessments with a friend or neighbour, as we often become so familiar with our homes that we become blind to details that might be obvious to someone else.

Once you've got the worksheets filled in sit down, read through them and think about priorities. Assign a number to each finding based on how much difference you think it will make to your home compared to how much it will cost to implement. Do some research or contact some experts for advice on complex areas. Get quotes from appropriate people for the larger jobs like insulation or lighting.

You should now have your head around the energy flows in and out of your home and how much control you have over them. You can make a targeted list of actions to get stuck into and work your way down, improving the comfort and efficiency of your home.

Print off the following sheets. You'll need one each of the Exterior sheets and one copy of the Interior sheet for each room in your house.



HOME ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

EXTERIOR

	Priority 1 - Do it now! It'll make a major difference to the comfort and / or efficiency of your home, giving a major return on investment.	Priority 2 - Do it soon! It'll make a significant difference to the comfort and / or efficiency of your home, giving a good return on investment.	Priority 3 - A bit more involved or expensive but will make a significant difference.	Priority 4 - Take it into consideration, do some more research, worth looking into.	Priority 5 - Not worth it now, but recommended if renovating or doing other major works in the future.		
Passive Solar Design							Priority
Exposed windows to North Location							
Recommended shading							
Exposed windows to West Location							
Recommended shading							
Exposed windows to East Location							
Recommended shading							
Heavily exposed unshaded / uninsulated walls							
Notes :							
Insulation							
Ceiling							
Existing Insulation: Area 1	Type :		None	Poor	Good	Excellent	
Existing Insulation: Area 2	Type:		None	Poor	Good	Excellent	
Notes and Recommendations:							
Walls							
Existing Insulation: Area 1	Type :		None	Poor	Good	Excellent	
Existing Insulation: Area 2	Type:		None	Poor	Good	Excellent	
Notes and Recommendations:							

HOME ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

							Priority
Underfloor							
Existing Insulation: Area 1	Type :		None	Poor	Good	Excellent	
Existing Insulation: Area 2	Type:		None	Poor	Good	Excellent	
	Clearance / access?		Sealed / draughty?				
Notes and Recommendations:							
PV							
Existing?	Size?	Inverter?					
Notes and Recommendations:							
Hot Water							
Existing	Type :	Gas Storage	Gas Instant	Electric	Solar		
Notes :	Age :				Gas Boost	Elec Boost	
	Location :				Flat	Evac Tube	
Potential for solar or heat pump hot water							
Notes and Recommendations:							
Rainwater							
Existing :							
Potential :							
Notes and Recommendations:							
Greywater							
Existing :							
Potential :							
Notes and Recommendations:							

HOME ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

<h1>INTERIOR</h1>					Priority 1 - Do it now! It'll make a major difference to the comfort and / or efficiency of your home, giving a major return on investment.	Priority 2 - Do it soon! It'll make a significant difference to the comfort and / or efficiency of your home, giving a good return on investment.	Priority 3 - A bit more involved or expensive but will make a significant difference.	Priority 4 - Take it into consideration, do some more research, worth looking into.	Priority 5 - Not worth it now, but recommended if renovating or doing other major works in the future.	
Room :										Priority
Doors		Draughty	Sealed	Notes :						
External										
Internal										
Recommendations :										
Windows		Draughty	Sealed	Sgl Glazed	Dbl Glazed	Frame Type	Notes :			
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
Recommendations :										
Lighting										Priority
Downlights		Halogen		LED		Notes :				
		Tilt	Gimbal	Sealed	Unsealed					
#										
Other		Pendant	Oyster	Lamp	Other					
#										
Recommendations :										
Draughts		Skirting		Floorboards		Wall Vents	Other			
Recommendations :										
Heating / Cooling			Type :			Location :				
Appliances		Notes :								

Who is the EnviroShop?

The EnviroShop is Australia's leading environmental products retailer, committed to the best sustainability outcomes possible through quality products, ethical buying practices and excellent service. Originally one business under The Environment Shop banner, EnviroGroup branched off to specialise in solar power while EnviroShop looks after everything else.

The EnviroShop does everything from compostable nappies and non-toxic cleaning products through to consultancy for efficient buildings, with many things in between. Because we sell a wide range of products and are committed to sustainability, we will recommend the best solutions that work together for the best results.



Shop location

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www.enviroshop.com.au/shop

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