

Introduction

The natural tendency after any disaster is to try to return your life and your home to the way it was before as soon as possible.

Due largely to recent advances in building technologies, it is possible to rebuild your home with a little extra care and not much more time or cost and have a home that is much more energy efficient than it was before disaster struck.

If you are faced with the task of repairing or rebuilding a flooded home, you have several opportunities to make that home more energy-efficient. By doing so, you will increase your family's comfort, reduce energy consumption and utility bills, increase your property's value, and save money and energy for years to come.

In normal times, any decision to upgrade or improve the energy performance of your home would have to be based entirely on the energy economics involved.

The silver lining behind the cloud of rebuilding is that most equipment or material must be replaced after a flood anyway so it frequently makes sense to buy the most efficient equipment and materials available.

Repairs to your flood-damaged home can add energy efficiency at the same time you address pressing structural needs, mainly by replacing and

upgrading insulation in walls and floors, and checking your foundation for flood damage. Many energy efficiency options are available to you today that may not have been widely available when you built your house even if that was only a few years ago.

Cost-effectiveness depends on several factors, including cost of fuel and materials, efficiency levels of the structure and components, and climate. This booklet offers some general tips to improve the efficiency of your home's shell and equipment.

Additional information on any issue covered in this booklet is available from various agencies within or near your community, including your state energy office, local community action agency, utilities, Red Cross and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offices.

While this booklet focuses on the energy efficiency aspects of rebuilding a flood-damaged home, there are many other issues involved in rebuilding. Further information on these topics is also available from several sources.

Probably the best single source for written help is a free 60-page booklet titled **Repairing Your Flooded Home**, which is a joint publication of the Red Cross and FEMA. For a free copy, write to FEMA Publications, P.O. Box 70274, Washington, DC 20024, or contact a local Red Cross chapter and ask for ARC 4477.