One of the best ways to make your home more comfortable and save money on utility costs is to improve its energy efficiency by installing insulation. But insulating the wall cavities and ceilings of your home isn’t always enough. Heat can escape through the wall studs and other framing, wasting energy and money through a phenomenon known as the “thermal bridging” effect.

By cladding the exterior of your home with insulated siding, however, you can further reduce heat loss and improve your home’s curb appeal. Choosing insulated siding certified through the VSI Product Certification Program will not only increase your home’s energy efficiency, but provide you with confidence that your home’s exterior will maintain its beauty and durability over time.

For energy savings, performance and curb appeal, look for insulated siding certified through the VSI Product Certification Program.
**What Is Insulated Siding?**

Insulated siding is vinyl siding with rigid foam insulation laminated or permanently attached to the panel. In energy codes and energy efficiency programs, insulated siding is recognized as a form of “continuous insulation,” or insulation installed on the exterior of the building that helps reduce energy loss through framing or other building material.

Due to its ability to reduce energy and heat loss, insulated siding can help homes qualify under the ENERGY STAR® Qualified Homes Program.

**Certified Insulated Siding Saves**

To ensure its performance, insulated siding can be independently certified to meet or exceed the industry standard for performance (ASTM D7793), as verified by an independent, accredited quality control agency. Through a program sponsored by the Vinyl Siding Institute (VSI), an independent laboratory conducts unannounced plant inspections and tests insulated siding twice each year to ensure the product will:

- Withstand the impacts of recommended installation procedures
- Lie straight on a flat wall, not buckling under normal conditions
- Weather the effects of sunshine, rain, and heavy winds of at least 110 mph

To ensure its energy efficiency, certified insulated siding is also required to demonstrate a minimum thermal resistance, or R-value, of at least R-2.0 (insulated siding R-values generally range from R-2.0 to R-3.0). This means that the certified insulated siding covering your home will minimize heat loss through the wall framing and save on energy costs.

**Install Siding With Quality**

Vinyl siding, including insulated vinyl siding, is the only exterior cladding with: 1) a product certification program administered by an independent, accredited quality control agency that ensures products and colors meet or exceed ASTM standards; and 2) a certified installer program with validation by an independent, third-party administrator to ensure that installers demonstrate knowledge of ASTM-accepted application techniques. If you’re thinking about putting insulated siding on your home, look for a VSI Certified Installer at www.vinylsiding.org/certifiedinstaller.

**Cladding That Keeps Its Color**

Certified insulated siding colors can also be independently certified through VSI’s program. Whether solid or multi-hued, certified insulated siding colors will resist major changes in a variety of climates, and they won’t chip, flake, crack or peel. Low-maintenance insulated siding never requires painting, staining or caulking, but keeps its curb appeal for years to come.

**Look for the Logo**

To find the best energy-saving cladding for your home, look for VSI’s certification logo on cartons of certified insulated siding, product literature and websites. VSI’s Official List of Certified Products and Colors found at www.vinylsiding.org includes a full list of products and colors certified under the program.

For more information about certified insulated siding, visit www.vinylsiding.org or www.insulatedsiding.info.

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**What Is ASTM D7793?**

ASTM International is one of the largest consensus-based standards development organizations in the world. It has been developing technical standards for products for more than 100 years. ASTM D7793 provides a uniform standard for manufacturing insulated siding according to recognized levels of quality and performance, especially when it comes to thermal insulation value.