

HOMEOWNER RESOURCE

What to Expect: The Trust Works Process

From your first call through your first heating season, a step-by-step look at how a Trust Works Company project actually runs.

From first call to finished job

A lot of the uncertainty homeowners feel about a spray foam project comes from not knowing what happens next. This document walks through the process in order, from your first phone call through your first heating season with the new insulation in place, so you know what to expect at each stage.

Step 1: Free, no-pressure estimate

We start with a conversation and an on-site look at the areas you are considering, whether that is an attic, rim joist, crawl space, basement, or a new construction or pole barn project. We assess existing insulation levels against the proper target for Minnesota's climate zone, look for the specific air leaks that undermine whatever insulation is already there, and note any moisture or ventilation issues that should factor into the plan. You get a clear, honest picture of where things stand and a written estimate, with no pressure to move forward.

Step 2: Scoping the right foam for the job

We spec closed-cell or open-cell foam by area, and explain exactly why. Closed-cell goes where moisture control and a high R-value in a shallow space matter most, such as rim joists, crawl spaces, and basement walls. Open-cell goes where air sealing and sound control are the priority and there is more depth to work with, such as interior walls, ceilings, and vaulted roofs. Every job is designed to meet or exceed the R-value and code requirements that apply to Minnesota's climate zones under Minnesota Rules Chapter 1322.

Step 3: Preparing for installation day

Once a project is scheduled, we walk you through what to clear, cover, and plan for the day before the crew arrives, covered in full in our companion document, Installation Day: Preparation and Safety. Most of what is asked of a homeowner is simple: clear a path, protect a few things, and plan around the parts of the house that will be off limits for a few hours. The crew arrives with everything needed, a truck-mounted spray rig, protective equipment, and materials to mask off and contain the work area.

Step 4: Installation day itself

- **Morning walkthrough.** We confirm the scope with you, mask off surfaces near the work area, and set up ventilation before any foam goes on.
- **Spraying.** The crew applies foam to the target areas. This is when the smell is strongest, and it is when occupants and pets should be out of the work zone.
- **Cleanup and walkthrough.** We clear our equipment and materials, do a final check of coverage, and walk you through what was done before we leave.

A typical attic, crawl space, or rim joist project is completed in a single day.

Step 5: The first 24 to 72 hours

Depending on the product and the size of the job, plan on 24 to 72 hours before unprotected re-entry to the treated area, per U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and manufacturer guidance. We give you the specific window for your project rather than a generic number. Opening windows where practical and following our instructions on the HVAC system helps vapors clear out rather than circulate. A lingering smell that fades day by day is expected during this period; it should be getting weaker, not stronger.

Step 6: Weeks one through four

Spray foam reaches its final physical properties over the days and weeks after application, though it is fully safe to occupy the space well before that point once the re-entry window has passed. Comfort changes tend to show up quickly: drafts near the treated areas disappear, rooms above or near the work stop feeling as cold, and a furnace or air conditioner may cycle less often because it is not fighting constant air leakage. If trim, drywall, or access panels needed to come down for the job, this is typically when that gets patched and finished.

Step 7: Your first heating season

This is where the investment starts to show up on a utility bill. According to ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, homeowners who air seal and add insulation in attics, floors, and crawl spaces save an average of 15 percent on heating and cooling costs, or about 11 percent on total energy costs. That is a general average across many homes, not a specific promise for any one project. Comparing a bill to the same month a year earlier, rather than to last month, is the fairest way to see the difference, since it accounts for how cold that particular stretch of winter actually was.

Ongoing maintenance

One advantage of spray foam over batts or blown-in insulation is that it does not settle, sag, or need to be topped off over time once properly installed. Beyond keeping an eye on an attic or crawl space the way you normally would, there is nothing ongoing to schedule. If a question ever comes up about how an area is performing, whether it is a room that still feels drafty or a bill that seems out of line with expectations, we are happy to take a look and give an honest answer, well past the first year.

Sources cited in this document: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Safer Choice program guidance on spray polyurethane foam re-entry times; ENERGY STAR, Methodology for Estimated Energy Savings; Minnesota Rules Chapter 1322, Residential Energy Code.