AUGUST • MISSION 08

Building-science guidance for Central Illinois homes

Hot Zone: Attic

Heat load and insulation performance during the hardest weeks to cool.

/ WHY THIS MONTH?

Late summer pushes attics to their hottest. Rooms under a hot attic are the first to lose the fight, and insulation gaps are invisible from below.

/ THE HOMEOWNER'S MISSION

- Note which ceilings feel hot to the touch or which rooms never recover in the afternoon.
- Feel for hot air pouring down from attic access points.
- If you have safe access, visually estimate insulation depth and look for bare or thin patches.
- Check soffit vents outside aren't blocked by debris or painted over.

/ WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Thin or missing insulation patches in the attic
- Soffit vents blocked or painted shut
- Hot air streaming in at the attic hatch
- Rooms above garages or under attics that never cool off

/ WHY IT MATTERS

A hot attic pushes heat down into the living space all afternoon. Rooms under it suffer most, and insulation gaps are invisible without a closer look.

/ WHEN TO CALL GREEN PLATOON

It makes sense to get real data when:

- Rooms that never cool in the afternoon, even with the AC running hard

Thermal imaging can show exactly where heat is entering the house — no guesswork.

QUICK WIN

Close blinds or curtains on sun-facing windows during the afternoon. 5 minutes, $0.

Home Missions is educational guidance. Never attempt work involving fuel gas, combustion equipment, dangerous electrical conditions, roofs, or hazardous materials.

