If your basement is not part of your living space, it's located. They will also seal any cracks in the foundation wall with caulk.

Rigid board insulation is commonly used on both interior and exterior basement walls, especially in cold climates. Because it can be glued directly to the wall surface, it effectively guards against moisture problems.

Another interior option is to put up wooden stud framing and install batt insulation between the cavities, followed by a vapor barrier and then paneling or drywall. If rigid board insulation is added to the outside of the wall, “extruded” polystyrene is recommended. The weatherization crew must first excavate around the perimeter of the house— to a depth of at least two feet below grade. Once excavated, a few coats of waterproofing asphalt coating should be applied to the foundation before the insulation is added. The insulation is next set against the foundation wall and covered with fiberboard, metal or a stucco-like finish to protect it from the sun.

Insulated crawl spaces should be vented. Place a moisture barrier on the ground. Pipes and duct work should also be insulated.

Before insulating, the weatherization crew will first check for moisture problems and correct any that are located. They will also seal any cracks in the foundation wall with caulk.

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Insulate the foundation walls of a heated crawl space.

Heated Crawl Space. If you want to take extra precautions against freezing pipes, you may want to have your crawl space walls insulated to R-19. Your options are similar to those discussed above for insulating basement walls. However, hanging glass fiber batt insulation against the inside walls is the most common do-it-yourself way to insulate crawl space walls.

Slab Foundation. Your house may not have a basement or a crawl space; it may instead sit on a concrete slab foundation. To keep your floors warmer in this situation, have the perimeter of the slab insulated with extruded polystyrene. Like adding insulation to the outside of a basement foundation, the perimeter of the slab foundation will have to be excavated to place the rigid board insulation against the concrete.

How’s that for options? So many different ways to keep your toes warm! Talk with a professional to find out which one would work best for you.

For More Information
To learn more about insulation in general, obtain a copy of Power Bill’s Insulation Choices brochure. Brochures are available on insulating your walls and attic and on other energy conservation topics as well. For additional information, contact your local utility, the Human Resources Development Council, the tribal weatherization office, or the MSU Extension office in your county.

For the HRDC or tribal weatherization office nearest you, call 1-800-332-2272.