

This Old House® Still Youthful and Ready to Take on the Next Challenge

Icynene Helps Celebrate TOH's 25th-Anniversary TV Centerpiece Project in Carlisle, Massachusetts

The Bradford Heald House is a charming Greek Revival-style farmstead located in Carlisle, Massachusetts and has become the site of This Old House's 25th Anniversary centerpiece project. This original 1849 classic Greek Revival main house and the 39-by-50-foot 19th century New England barn are in dire need of updating by TOH general contractor, Tom Silva, and his crew members: master carpenter Norm Abram, plumbing and heating expert Rich Trethewey, landscape contractor Roger Cook, host Kevin O'Connor, and senior design consultant Alexa Hampton. And Icynene gets in on the action. Icynene® insulation and air barrier system will be installed to deliver increased energy efficiency and improved indoor air quality, ensuring that this home is rejuvenated to modern standards while preserving its original architectural details. Icynene® is the perfect fit for the This Old House Carlisle project because it helps address three types of construction:

#1 – Preservation

Icynene® helps TOH crew preserve the architectural integrity of this historic home while delivering a healthy and efficient living environment

Typically draftier, older homes generate excess heating and cooling loads that result in wasteful energy bills. By insulating with Icynene®, a unique foam insulation and air barrier system, the TOH crew can “inject” the latest building technology into the Carlisle house to maximize energy efficiency while still preserving its original architectural details. Icynene® softly expands to fill and seal all gaps and crevices that compromise airtightness. Its air-sealing properties help improve energy efficiency, which then allows for the installation of a smaller, less expensive heating and cooling system.

Icynene® is also the right choice in protecting the Carlisle house from airborne moisture and mold problems. 100% water-blown with no harmful emissions, Icynene® air-seals the building envelope to minimize airborne moisture transport and condensation-related problems like mold and mildew growth. Icynene® helps create a healthier, more energy efficient environment without sacrificing the historic feel of the Carlisle house.

#2 - Modern Design and Construction

Icynene® satisfies the competing demands of both form and function so Carlisle architect can design without compromise.

Design possibilities are limitless with Icynene®. Part of the challenge in remodeling this house will be to design and construct a custom wing that connects the house and the barn. When this new custom space meets the old building, it will require an insulation that offers flexibility and adaptability for easy integration into this design plan. Sprayed on as a liquid, Icynene® seeps into every joint and gap, creating the perfect air-seal for any-shaped cavity. Dome ceilings, arches, slanted ceilings, and other unusual shapes do not impede the performance of Icynene®.

#3 – Adaptive Reuse

Icynene® helps convert former livestock barn into a new living space with improved indoor air quality and maximum energy efficiency

Integrating the barn with the rest of the house comes with its own set of challenges. Icynene® helps the crew make this space livable and comfortable by creating a uniform, seamless barrier to protect the building envelope from air leakage. Icynene® air-seals this new space to lock out allergens and other outdoor pollutants. Combined with proper mechanical ventilation, homeowners can control the quality of the indoor air they breathe.