



United Testing & Balancing, Inc.

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**"We do it right!"**



United Testing and Balancing, Inc. began as an independent test and balance agency in 1976 and maintains its corporate office in Nashville, Tennessee. Since 1976, UTAB has tested and balanced a variety of projects. We are also qualified to certify cooling tower performances and measure sound and vibration. In conjunction, Phase I Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) investigations and IAQ Assurance Monitoring of buildings for owners and property managers are included in our scope of services.

Old fashioned values with modern technology are combined to assure project success.

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VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

1ST QUARTER, 2009

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST REGARDING UTAB:

- Celebrating 33 years in business.
- 2008 was UTAB's most successful year.
- Over 25% of our TAB technicians are certified Test and Balance Engineers.



## Lockout/Tagout

Lockout/tagout means that any energy source, be it electrical, hydraulic, mechanical or any other source that may cause unexpected movement, must be disengaged or blocked, and electrical sources must be de-energized and locked in the off position. In a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics survey on injuries related to servicing equipment, 80 percent of workers surveyed failed to turn off the equipment before performing the service work. There is a difference between turning off a machine and actually disengaging a piece of equipment. When turning off a control switch, you are opening a circuit; however, there is still electrical energy at the switch, and a short in the switch or someone turning on the machine may start it running again. Failure to lock out and block out machinery before working on it is a major cause of injury and death in the United States. Workers can be electrocuted or lose fingers, hands, arms, or suffer severe crushing injuries because machinery is inadvertently turned on while being serviced or maintained.

Workers may be exposed to hazardous energy in several forms and combinations during installation, maintenance, service or repair work. Forms of hazardous energy:

*Kinetic (mechanical) energy* in the moving parts of mechanical systems.

*Potential energy* stored in pressure vessels, gas tanks, hydraulic or pneumatic systems, and springs (potential energy can be released as hazardous kinetic energy.)

*Electrical energy* from generated electrical power, static sources, or electrical storage devices (such as batteries or capacitors)

*Thermal energy* (high or low temperature) resulting from mechanical work, radiation, chemical reaction, or electrical resistance.

Take the following steps to protect yourself if you install or service equipment and systems:

- Follow OSHA regulations.
  - Identify and label all sources of hazardous energy.
- Before beginning work, do the following:
- De-energize all sources of hazardous energy:
    - Disconnect or shut down engines or motors.
    - De-energize electrical circuits.
    - Block fluid (gas or liquid) flow in hydraulic or pneumatic systems.

- Block or dissipate stored energy:
    - Discharge capacitors.
    - Release or block springs that are under compression or tension.
    - Vent fluids from pressure vessels, tanks, or accumulators—but never vent toxic, flammable, or explosive substances directly into the atmosphere.
  - Lockout and tagout all forms of hazardous energy—including electrical breaker panels, controls valves, etc.
  - Make sure that only **one key** exists for each of your assigned locks and that only you hold that key.
  - Verify by test and/or observation that all energy sources are de-energized.
  - Inspect repair work before removing your lock and activating the equipment.
  - Make sure that only you remove your assigned lock.
  - Make sure that you and your co-workers are clear of damper points before re-energizing the system.
- Source: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

# Home Energy Tax Credits in 2009

—Kathy Ogles, UTAB

In February, President Obama signed into law the economic stimulus package reviving and expanding tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements that expired in 2007. Unfortunately, if you made improvements, such as, new windows or insulation in 2008, you moved too soon. The new tax credits do not apply to home improvements made during 2008.

If you have the funds available here is a general overview of some of the 2009 tax credits available:

1. A tax credit for 30% of the cost of energy-efficient doors and windows, insulation, air conditioners, furnaces, heat pumps and boilers, up to a lifetime cap of \$1,500 (for existing homes that meet certain specifications). This credit is available for 2009 and 2010. That means if you spend \$5,000 on new windows this year and claim a \$1,500 tax credit on your 2009 tax return. You won't be able to claim an additional credit in 2010. For windows, doors, insulation and other similar projects that tighten up the "shell" of your home, the credit is limited to the cost of materials. However, if you purchase a new air conditioner, furnace, heat pump or boiler that meets the energy-efficient guidelines, you can include the cost of installation in calculating the credit. Energy Star or Department of Energy Websites can provide additional information regarding specifications.
2. \$2000 or more in home energy

3. Taxpayers who purchase an IRS-certified hybrid (a vehicle that combines an electric motor with a gas engine) are eligible for tax credits ranging from \$250 to \$3,000, depending on the type of vehicle. Once a manufacturer has sold 60,000 hybrid vehicles, the credit phases out and gradually disappears. Toyota and Honda hybrids are no longer eligible for the tax credit. Credit is still available for Ford, GM and Nissan.
  4. The first 250,000 buyers of plug-in hybrid vehicles from each manufacturer now qualify for a \$7,500 tax credit (then it phases out like the hybrid tax credits.)
  5. A 10% tax credit through 2011 with a cap of \$2,500 was established for new electric plug-in motorcycles, low-speed and three-wheeled vehicles. There is also a 10% tax rebate and a \$4,000 cap for converting an existing vehicle to a plug-in.
- The bill also authorizes an \$800 million government bond program that encourages states to create incentives for new and existing energy conservation and related programs. According to the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*,

Tennessee expects to receive approximately \$95 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program. More details should be known during March, 2009.

Be sure to remember:

Home improvements must be "placed in service" from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010 and must be for taxpayer's principal residence.

In addition, there are stringent specifications that have been established for each of the tax credits, so make sure to do your homework beforehand.

An excellent source containing a complete summary of tax credits containing product category, product type, tax credit specification, tax credit and notations is available at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Even if you do not purchase a product covered by tax credit, still consider purchasing an ENERGY STAR product. ENERGY STAR distinguishes energy efficient products which, although they may cost more to purchase than standard models, will pay you back in lower energy bills within a reasonable amount of time, without a tax credit.

Resources of information:

"Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency", [www.energystar.com](http://www.energystar.com)

"Home Energy Tax Credits to Save You Thousands in 2009", *The Daily Green*.

Sandra Block, "Stimulus package's tax credits reward home energy efficiency." *USA Today*.

# WWW..Walter's Winning Words

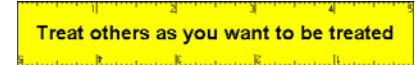


During these challenging economic times each day seems to bring more news of companies facing the challenges of layoffs or possible closures. Yet...thanks to everyone's continued effort, UTAB was able to continue to reward our team with a bonus last week. Gang, we need your help! Ideas that you "wake up" during the night—write them down and tell me what your thinking. It could be an idea that saves UTAB a lot of money or gets us new (and) better work.

We (all of UTAB) are very fortunate to have a very good backlog of work in place and we want to keep it that way. Along with your ability to bring projects in "under budget" and sometimes 'making a silk purse out of a pig's ear' helps us to continue with a paycheck and a bonus check. Thank you for your help, concern and hard work.

—Be sure your business cards are current.

- Take a customer to lunch.
- Use your email along with your phone to keep Nate and everyone in the office informed.
- Live and work "by the golden rule". It pays off in so many ways.



# Five steps to a Healthier You

## 1) Get Moving!

It doesn't matter what you do, as long as you get your body moving. Even moderate aerobic exercise is not only good for the heart, but also the waistline. Take the stairs, make a goal to walk around the block every day, join a gym, or ride a stationary bike while watching TV.

## 2) Keep it Colorful

Add lots of colorful fruits and vegetables to your diet. Your plate should look like an artist's palette. Colorful foods are full of antioxidants that retard aging inside our cells and keep their energy factories running well. Add in nuts, fruits and whole grains for a truly health mix.

## 3) Joyful experiences

Leave time for you in your life.

Cultivate friendships and spend time helping others. Meditation has been found to relieve stress and tension. Turn off the TV and computers, and begin spending quality time with family and friends.

## 4) Stop smoking

Do not use tobacco in any form. This is one of the most important steps to preventing

cancer and other health problems.

## 5) Time for a Check-up

Get the check-ups you need for your age range. Colonoscopies, mammograms, blood tests and other tests can allow you to catch health problems in their early stages.

—January/February 2009 AAA Going Places

# Olio...

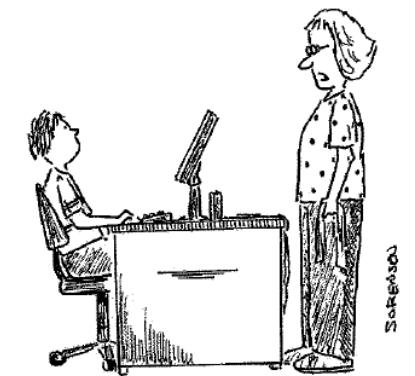
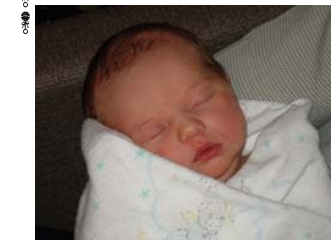
Celebrating a birthday during the first quarter of 2009.



- Tony Kennedy
- Tresslyn Link
- Walter McCauley
- Stewart Moen
- Kathy Ogles

A new "Link" has been added to the UTAB family chain. Meet Miss Amelia Link.

Congratulations B. J. and Jessie.



"Your father and I decided on your punishment: for the next two weeks you have to play outside an hour a day."