Property owners who participate in the City of Inglewood’s voluntary sound insulation program will enjoy not just a quieter home, but also a much cooler one in the summertime months!

Air conditioning is installed at no cost to the homeowner, thanks to the City Council, which negotiated with Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) and the Federal Aviation Administration to include this highly popular feature in the program.

The installation of free air conditioning is just one example of efforts being made by the city to ensure that the community is fully served through the program. Another important program feature is the suspension of avigation easements. In February 2001, the City Council was successful in its negotiations with LAWA to suspend the requirement for an avigation easement as a condition of sound insulating a home. Prior to that time, the property owner was required to sign an easement, which limited their right to take legal action against the airport.

To date some 1,000 homes in Inglewood have been completed or are in the process of being retrofitted with features like solid-core doors, double-pane windows, and now, free air conditioning systems.
What to Expect During Construction

Your home has been surveyed and measured. You’ve met with the architect and contractor. The items you picked out have been delivered. It’s finally time for construction to begin! What can you expect?

First of all, a construction schedule will let you know what is happening each day: when the windows will be installed or when your doors will be replaced.

All construction will take place between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is very important that the property owner or a designated representative is present at all times when work is underway.

You will be responsible for removing or covering dust-sensitive equipment in the work area (computers, stereo equipment, cameras, etc.) and taking precautions to remove breakables, valuables and irreplaceable items.

For safety reasons, children and pets must be kept clear of the construction area.

Cleanliness is a top priority for our bonded and licensed crews. All floors and furniture in the work area will be covered. The workers clean as they go along and at the end of each day the entire work site is cleaned up. Portable toilets are delivered to the work site daily (and removed every night).

Windows and doors are replaced on the same day as their removal to ensure that the home can be occupied during construction.

On average, construction will take about two weeks to complete. As with any type of remodeling, there will be disruptions to daily household activities. Please be prepared and have patience. The end result should make the whole process worthwhile!

Luis and Gloria Villa are thrilled with the beautiful results. Their new custom arched window is exactly like the original, right down to the wood detailing. Except this one is a double-pane window, making the noise of jet planes from nearby LAX “just a murmur,” in the words of Luis Villa.

“If it can be made, then we will give it to the property owner.”

The end result makes it all worthwhile!

For more information please call 310/412-5289

Luis Villa admires the roses in front of his new custom arched window, installed by the city when his home was sound insulated.
It’s the Custom

Wilkerson got much more than just a quieter home. Her inefficient 1950s floor heaters were replaced with central heating and new insulation. “Now the whole house is the same temperature all over; it feels great,” Wilkerson notes. “It will be wonderful next summer with the new air conditioning!”

Alma and Paul Valdez’ two-story, four-bedroom home was sound insulated almost a year ago. In addition to being happy with their newly quiet home, the Valdez’ were also amazed at how fast the crew worked. This is important when a family of six is sharing space with a crew of workmen. Alma Valdez recalls that there was no problem for her family to live there during construction. “It was so quick: they replaced all the windows in one day.” She reports that at most, it took just three to four days to complete the entire job.

And, like Wilma Wilkerson, the Valdez family is now enjoying life at home without the intrusion of jet noise.

“I have lived here for 34 years, and I have been hearing airplane noise for all that time,” says Wilkerson. She isn’t bothered by the jet noise anymore—last year her home was sound insulated. “I am very pleased with the results,” she says. The best part—now she can read to her adorable two-year-old great grandson without the constant interruption of jets.

Like other homeowners who participate in the voluntary program,
Q: Are permits required in order to insulate my home?
A: The contractor performing the sound insulation construction must acquire permits and is responsible for the cost of those permits.

Q: Are there different styles of sound insulation products to choose from?
A: A visit to our showroom will show you the full range of product types available. We work with the property owner to select products (windows, doors, etc.) that will work best in the home to reduce sound and, at the same time, are aesthetically pleasing.

Q: Is the work guaranteed? What about the products; are they guaranteed?
A: Yes, the contractor guarantees the work for one year, which is consistent with industry practice. Warranties are provided to the property owner for the doors, windows and other products used to sound insulate the home.

Q: Will my home be reassessed?
A: No. The State Board of Equalization considers sound insulation modifications exempt.

Q: What are the steps leading up to construction?
A: During an architectural survey, walls, windows, doors and other important features of your property are measured to produce construction plans. The designs are submitted to each property owner for review and approval, and then the Plans and Specifications are submitted to the Building & Safety Division. The contractor will visit your home to verify the measurements and all items will be ordered.

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Diana Weathersby stops to chat with worker outside her home.