

Weatherization Tips



Unintentional penetrations or gaps in walls and ceilings allow air leaks, or unconditioned outside air mixing with conditioned air inside a house, to occur. Air leaks can have a large impact on overall energy usage if your heating/cooling systems are frequently on. This is because your heating/cooling systems must work harder to maintain the temperature inside of your home.

Here are some common areas where air leaks occur — and how you can stop them with simple, easy solutions.

PLUMBING LOCATIONS

- Pipes penetrating the wall will usually have gaps where air can flow into or out of the home.
- Applying spray foam sealant where the pipe meets the wall is an effective way to stop airflow between those gaps. When the spray foam is applied to the area, it will expand and harden. Once hardened, you can cut away any excess spray foam and re-install the escutcheon ring (if present).



ATTIC ACCESS

- Attic access hatches can lead to considerable air leakage if not properly weather stripped.
- Install a self-adhesive foam gasket around the opening of the attic access hatch where the attic door meets the edge of the opening.
- Insulate the attic door on the attic-side of the hatch with attic insulation if not already in place.



DOORS

- If you can see light coming through the bottom of your front door, then you need to replace or adjust your threshold weather stripping.
- Door shoes are one way to stop airflow at the bottom of the door and are relatively easy to install.
- Weather stripping around the door frame is important. Soft, flexible seals should be applied on the door frame to maintain a tight seal when the door is closed.



WINDOWS

- Old caulking that no longer functions can cause drafts in your home near your windows.
- Remove the old caulking from the interior and exterior perimeter of your windows. Once removed, apply new caulking to those areas.



LIGHT SWITCHES AND OUTLETS

- Light switches and outlets are known to be a source of air leakage due to their proximity to exterior walls.
- Apply foam gaskets to the back of light switch and outlet plates to ensure tight seals when they are installed against walls.



OTHER TIPS

- Seal cracks and holes in the wall or ceiling with patches or plaster.
- Close your fireplace damper when not in use.
- Remove window A/C units during the winter when not in use.
- Caulking should be used wherever two different building materials or parts of the house meet.