

Air Sealing **your Home**

Efficiency
Vermont

SMART CHOICE

Pro tips from Efficiency Vermont



Whether brand new or very old, almost every home leaks air. Finding and sealing those leaks is a low-cost fix to make you more comfortable and help you save on heating and cooling costs.

Top 10 usual suspects for air leaks

1. **Sill plates** - These are the pieces of wood that connect your house frame to the foundation, and can be accessed through the basement.
2. **Outdoor water faucets** - Locate any penetrations to your exterior walls, and air seal around them.
3. **Exterior door frames** - Apply caulk around the frame, and apply weather strips to the door jambs.
4. **Window frames** - Seal around window frames with caulk and weather-strip windows.
5. **Plumbing & utility closets** - Seek out plumbing penetrations throughout the home, and seal around them with caulk. Don't forget to look in cabinets and utility closets.
6. **All ducts** - Find and seal leaks wherever ducts penetrate walls, ceilings, and floors.
7. **Attic entrance** - Apply caulk around the frame, and apply weather strips for the hatch to sit snugly on.
8. **Recessed lights** - Most of these require sealing from inside your attic.
9. **Ceiling** - Look for obvious cracks and seams, and also dirty spots—these may indicate an air leak.
10. **Outlets and switches** - After shutting off electricity, install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates.

Test your home for air tightness

On a windy day, hold a lit incense stick any place you suspect a leak. If the smoke streams horizontally, you've found an air leak.



Materials checklist:

- Incense (to help find air leaks)
- Silicone, acrylic latex caulk and/or low expanding foam for air sealing
- Cans of expanding spray foam insulation