

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

While some air sealing work can be done on your own, we recommend working with a Building Performance Institute (BPI) contractor to air seal your entire home and reduce your bills as much as possible. They can also account for air quality and address other safety concerns.

To find a qualified contractor near you, visit www.encyvermont.com/contractors

Need help?

View how-to videos at www.encyvermont.com/DIY

Contact our help line for trouble-shooting support at 888-921-5990

Practical tips for do-it-yourself sealing



1. When caulking, hold the gun at a slight angle, and work backward along the seam rather than pushing forward.



2. Use low-expanding foam when sealing board insulation against wood rim joints.



3. Avoid sealing windows shut with caulk. Use weather stripping on any moving parts.

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As the state's energy efficiency resource, we partner with Vermont residents to help them save energy and money at home. For more information call us at 888-921-5990 or visit www.encyvermont.com