



Air Sealing Tip Sheet

Air leakage can account for more than 20% of winter heating or summer cooling bills. Thankfully, there are low-cost ways to prevent it.

Here are some answers to help resolve air leakage problems:

Q. Where is air most likely to leak in?

A. Common culprits of air leaks include under and around exterior door and window frames, mail chutes, plumbing and electric or gas pipe inlets, air ventilation systems and fans, cable and phone line inlets and cavities in exterior building materials, such as bricks, siding and stucco.

The problems vary building to building. Some leaks are obvious – say, if you feel cold air gushing in under a closed door. Others are less noticeable. The most comprehensive way to detect and resolve air seepage problems is getting an energy assessment. An auditor will conduct a blower door test or use infrared cameras to spot where heat is escaping. An assessment will also determine whether the building could use more insulation. (See our insulation tip sheet for more information.)

You can contact Energy Smart at (651) 292-4652 to schedule an energy assessment.

Q. Once leaks are identified, what can be done about them?

A. Home improvement and hardware stores sell a variety of products for sealing up air leaks. These include weather stripping for under doors, caulk, expanding and non-expanding foam and gap filler. Which kinds of product you need depends on where the air is leaking in and the infrastructure involved.

Read more about the various products available for sealing and weather stripping at work and at home

http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/insulation_airsealing/index.cfm/mytopic=11240

Most sealing products cost less than \$30 and can pay for themselves in less than one heating or cooling season.

Q. Are there financial incentives for solving air problems?

A. Utility rebates and other incentives may be available to businesses that take steps to seal up air leaks. Contact Energy Smart to learn more.

Need help or have questions? Call Energy Smart at (651)292-4652.