

# *Keep the Warm Air In*

## **Air Leakage in Homes**

Air leakage occurs when outside air enters and warmed air leaves your house uncontrollably through cracks and openings. Air leakage also contributes to moisture problems that can affect occupants' health and the home's durability. Sealing cracks and openings reduces drafts and cold spots, improving comfort.

### **How to Seal Air Leaks:**

- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air.
- Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, or electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.
- Install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on walls.
- Inspect dirty spots in your insulation for air leaks and mold. Seal leaks with low-expansion spray foam made for this purpose and install house flashing if needed.
- Look for dirty spots on your ceiling paint and carpet, which may indicate air leaks at interior wall/ceiling joints and wall/floor joists, and caulk them.
- Cover single-pane windows with storm windows or replace them with more efficient double-pane low-emissivity windows.
- Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards, and other places where air may leak out.
- Cover your kitchen exhaust fan to stop air leaks when not in use.
- Check your dryer vent to be sure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire.
- Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones that have pliable sealing gaskets.
- Keep the fireplace flue damper tightly closed when not in use.
- Seal air leaks around fireplace chimneys, furnaces, and gas-fired water heater vents with fire-resistant materials such as sheet metal or sheetrock and furnace cement caulk.

### **Reminder: Tree-trimming efforts continue**

Through the winter months, a tree-trimming crew will continue to work across the city. They'll trim terrace trees so that their branches remain approximately 10-12 feet from city power lines. If you see a crew in your neighborhood, please give them room to work. Their efforts could pay off as soon as the next big storm.