

Keep the Warm Air Inside

Air Leakage and Sealing At Home

Cracks and gaps cause leakage that allows cold outdoor air to enter your home and warmed air to escape. Inspect your home for leaks, and follow these tips for sealing them:

- 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 outlets and switch plates on walls.
- Inspect dirty spots on any visual 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.
- Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards, and other places where air may leak out.
- Replace exterior 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.

Take Advantage of Heat from the Sun

- Open curtains on the south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat the home. Close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.

Cover Drafty Windows

- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.
- Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.

Adjust the Temperature

- When you are home and awake, set the thermostat as low as is comfortable.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn the thermostat back to save on your heating bills. A smart or programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature. But make sure the temperature is comfortable for pets!