

U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Energy Savers

Air Sealing

Air leakage, or infiltration, occurs when outside air enters a house uncontrollably through cracks and openings. Properly air sealing such cracks and openings in your home can significantly reduce heating and cooling costs, improve building durability, and create a healthier indoor environment.

It is unwise to rely on air leakage for [ventilation](#) because it can't be controlled. During cold or windy weather, too much air may enter the house. When it's warmer and less windy, not enough air may enter. Air infiltration also can contribute to problems with [moisture control](#). Moldy and dusty air can enter a leaky house through such areas as attics or foundations. This air in the house could cause health problems.

The recommended strategy in both new and old homes is to reduce air leakage as much as possible and to provide controlled ventilation as needed.

For more information, see the following resources:

- [Air Sealing an Existing Home](#)
- [Air Sealing for New Home Construction](#)

Note that air sealing alone can't replace the need for proper [insulation](#) throughout your home, which is needed to reduce [heat flow](#).

Learn More

Financing & Incentives

- [DOE Weatherization Assistance Program](#)
Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- [Find Federal Tax Credits for Energy Efficiency](#)
Energy Savers

Department of Energy Resources

- [Home Sealing](#)
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Related Links

- [Weatherization Guide: Air Leakage](#)
Urban Options

Reading List

- *Air Sealing* ([PDF 86 KB](#)). (December 2000). EPA 430-F-97-028. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- *Air Sealing* ([PDF 344 KB](#)). (February 2000). DOE/GO-102000-0767. U.S. Department of Energy.

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