

It's expensive to ignore air leaks in our homes

Can we really afford to cool the air outside our homes in hot weather or heat that air when the weather is cold?

That's exactly what happens when outside air enters and heated or cooled air leaves our homes uncontrollably through cracks and openings.

Filling those leaks is a cost-effective way to cut heating and cooling costs and increase your comfort this winter and for the remaining days of hot weather this fall.

Caulking and weatherstripping offer quick returns on your investment, whether you rent or own your home.

Caulk is generally used for cracks and openings between stationary house components, such as door and window frames, and weatherstripping is used to seal components that move, such as doors and operable windows.

Let's get started:

- ▶ Weatherstrip doors and windows where air leaks.
- ▶ Install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on walls.
- ▶ Seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, or

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electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.

- ▶ Inspect dirty spots in your insulation for air leaks and mold. Seal leaks with low-expansion spray foam made for this purpose; install house flashing if needed.

- ▶ Dirty spots on ceiling paint and carpet may indicate air leaks at interior wall/ceiling joints and wall/floor joists.

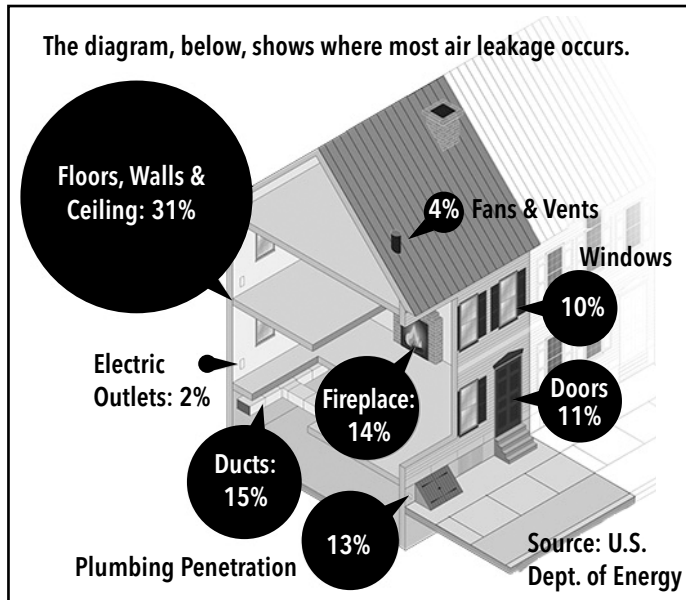
- ▶ Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows,

baseboards, and other places where air may leak out.

- ▶ Cover your kitchen exhaust fan to stop air leaks when not in use.

- ▶ Make sure the dryer vent is not blocked.

- ▶ Keep the fireplace flue damper closed when not in use. Seal leaks around fireplace chimneys, furnaces, and gas-fired water heater vents with fire-resistant materials.



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