



Energy Efficiency Bulletin

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Weather-strip Your Home!

Did you know that the 3-millimeter gap between your door and the frame is equivalent to a 13-square-centimeter hole in the wall? By sealing these small cracks around the windows and doors in your home, you can cut your electric heating bill 15 percent simply by weather-stripping. Best of all, this can be done within your entire home in a single day by yourself.

When weather-stripping your home, it is important to **select the type** of weather-stripping that will withstand the friction, weather, temperature changes, wear, and tear associated with its location to ensure the most energy efficiency and savings.

For instance, when applied to a door or threshold, weather-stripping could drag on carpet or erode as a result of foot traffic. Weather-stripping in a window sash must accommodate the sliding of panes – up and down, sideways, or out. The weather-stripping you select should seal well when doors and windows are closed while allowing to freely open them.

As you weather-strip your home, you should **select a product for each specific location**. Felt and open-cell foams tend to be inexpensive, susceptible to weather, visible, and inefficient at blocking airflow. However, the ease of applying these materials may make them valuable in low-traffic areas. Although it is slightly more expensive than other materials, vinyl holds up well and resists moisture. Metals (bronze, copper, stainless steel, and aluminum) last for years and are affordable. Weather-stripping made out of metal can provide a more ascetically pleasing look to older homes whereas other materials, such as vinyl, might seem out of place.

Weather-stripping Windows

Tools:

- Blow Dryer or Heat Gun
- Double-sided tape
- Scissors
- Tape Measure

Materials: Shrink-film window insulation kit
(available at most hardware stores)

Steps:

1. Clean all surfaces of the moulding area and allow to dry completely.
2. Apply the double-sided tape firmly to the surface around the window.
3. Measure and trim the plastic sheeting 1.5—2 times larger than the window.
4. Starting from the top, unfold the shrink film and attach it to the tape.
5. Heat the film with the blow dryer, and it will shrink snugly into place and remove remaining wrinkles. The shrink film is easy to remove during the warmer spring months.

Tools:

- Finishing Nails
- Hacksaw
- Hammer
- Screws
- Screwdriver
- Scissors
- Tape Measure

Materials

- V-Shaped vinyl weather-stripping
- Door sweep

Weather-stripping Doors

Installing V-Shaped Vinyl:

1. Clean the moulding area and allow all surfaces to dry completely.
2. Measure and cut the vinyl to the length of each side of the door.
3. Place each strip on the jamb with the raised “V” facing away from the door, positioned so the door sash is centered on the strip when closed.
4. Secure the vinyl into place with finishing nails or by removing the adhesive backing.

Installing a Door Sweep:

1. Measure and cut the sweep with a hacksaw to fit the bottom of the door.
2. With the door closed, position the sweep against the door so its bottom lightly touches the threshold.
3. Trace the mounting holes and drill pilot holes into the center or the marks.
4. Use the screw to mount the sweep to the door.
5. Adjust as you tighten so the sweep rests evenly on the threshold.