

## -Air Sealing your home-

Do you have an older home with drafts and are not in the position yet to buy new windows, new doors or do any large renovations? What can you do about cold air leaking into your home and causing drafts?

Air leakage control is an important retrofit activity and should be considered when upgrading your house. Controlling any air leakage is essential for keeping furnace and air conditioner costs lower as well as keeping your home comfortable. Controlling air leakage in your home can be done with a few items: weatherstripping, caulking, and insulated outlet plates. This is not overly expensive but takes time and patience. Proper air sealing is part of protecting your home's "Building Envelope". Keep an eye on our blogs to learn more about "Building Envelopes".

As a homeowner, you can make your own *leak detector* by burning incense sticks on a COLD and WINDY day and walking around your home and putting them near windows, doors, base boards, lights etc. When you see the smoke blowing you know you have cold air coming into your home. Take a "post it note" and put it on that spot to remember the area of concern.

*Draft coming from your light switch and power outlets.* Insulated outlet plate seals will stop any draft that may be coming into your home around your light and power outlets. These are put between the outlet and the cover and come in different sizes for the perfect fit. Over the years we have seen frost around power outlets in the Frigid winters of Alberta and adding this small and not costly item makes a huge difference.

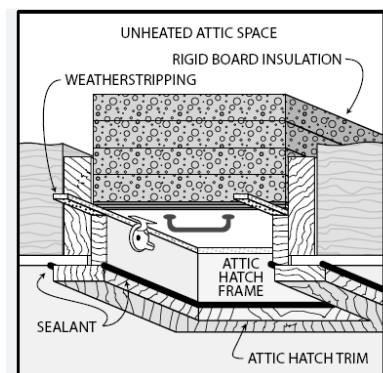


*Draft coming from around older windows.* Removable weatherstrip sealant is a great product to put around any drafty windows in your home during the cold months until you can purchase new windows. This will not stop a draft through the glass but stop the draft coming around the frame of the window.

Draft coming in around your door maybe it is time to replace your weather stripping, there are different types of weather stripping but you want one that goes around the door and attaches to the door frame sides and top then on along the bottom. Just remove the old and add the new.



*Draft coming from your attic around your attic hatch.* Insulate your attic hatch with a few materials, weatherstripping, foam insulation board, tuck tape, locks of some type to keep the attic hatch tightly secured to the ceiling. Before you insulate your attic hatch make sure you have board around the attic hatch to prevent any insulation from falling out.



These are just a few cost-effective ways to keep your house feeling comfortable this winter as well in the summer months. They do not involve a high cost but more time and patience than anything. Take some time to check out our Instagram account for videos about air sealing where we will be caulking windows, adding weather stripping to exterior doors and then making a leak detector.

*Insulation isn't sexy, it's Smart*