

## Weather Stripping!

If you have an 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch gap around your door, that is equivalent to a 6 inch hole in the middle of your front door! Installing weather stripping can plug this hole and can reduce heating/or cooling bill by 30%.

The first thing you need to do is find out where the air is coming in (or hot air escaping). Below are some strategies

Use a hairdryer and blow around a door or window with someone standing inside with incense – watch the smoke move!

Have someone perform an energy audit.

Stand outside your door with a flashlight with someone inside who can tell you where they can see the light.

Try sliding a dollar bill between the door and door-jamb on the locked side.

Here's a tip for checking windows. Wet your hand with water, and run your hand around the casing of the window. The moisture on your hand will help you detect any drafts that may be passing through the window perimeter.

Decide which kind of weather stripping will work the best in the situation:

Choose 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. Vinyl, which is slightly more expensive, holds up well and resists moisture. Metals (bronze, copper, stainless steel, and aluminum) last for years and are affordable. Metal weather stripping can also provide a nice touch to older homes where vinyl might seem out of place. For adhesive type weather stripping, the outside temperature needs to be above 50 degrees.

A door-sweep is a great way of sealing out drafts coming from underneath an exterior door. These attach to the bottom of the door using adhesives or screws.

A door threshold also helps to prevent drafts. If your threshold has a rubber gasket that is broken or damaged, you can obtain a replacement at home centers.

Shrink-film is an effective technique for sealing windows that won't be opened during the winter. The film is applied over the surface of the window and frame like cellophane. A heat-gun or hair dryer is used to heat the film so that it shrinks taut across the surface.

Here is an informative and short video to help you get started.

[http://www.easy2diy.com/cm/easy/diy\\_ht\\_3d\\_index.asp?page\\_id=35758373](http://www.easy2diy.com/cm/easy/diy_ht_3d_index.asp?page_id=35758373)