



Energy Efficiency: Sealing Air Leaks - Weatherstripping

(General)

What is Weatherstripping?

Weatherstripping is the material you find underneath and around your door frame or window - parts that move. It is a form of insulation generally made of rubber, foam or sponge. Since doors and windows in older homes are often not 100% square or plumb, weatherstripping can be used to fix minor misalignments and improve the air seal.



stock.adobe.com/ca/free

Benefit

Gaps around your doors or windows can allow warm or cool air to escape. Weatherstripping is a way to cover those gaps and trap your conditioned air inside. This will save you money from heating costs and reduce your home's environmental impact.

What to look for?

Home energy audits use blower tests to measure how much air freely passes in and out of your home when all of your doors and windows are shut. If too much air is escaping during one of these tests, it is a good idea to check if a home's weatherstripping is in good condition.

The good news is you don't need a blower test to inspect weatherstripping.

- Weatherstripping should be tightly in place, with no loose ends.
- Weatherstripping should go the whole way around the top of the door frame and the sides.
- Underneath a door or window there should be a separate piece of weatherstripping separate from the 3 sides mentioned above.
- If you can see light coming from around the door or frame, then the weatherstripping is out of place or damaged.

- Another way to detect an air leak is to place a lit incense stick near the door jamb or window jamb. If the smoke is blowing into or away from the window, you will know you have a leak.

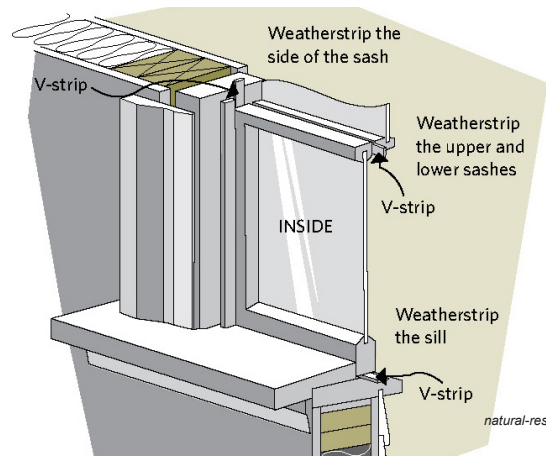


natural-resources.canada.ca

How to Fix Weatherstripping

Before fixing the weatherstripping, make sure the rest of the door or window is in good condition. If any repairs need to be made, make those first as weatherstripping should be the last step when fixing a door or window.

- Minor gaps in the corner of a door or window frame are common. A corner pad can be installed as a cheap and easy fix.
- When selecting replacement weatherstripping, make sure you select the right width of material.
- Before applying new weatherstripping, clean the surface that you'll be applying it to and dry it off completely.
- Weatherstripping will either come with a sticky side, just like tape, or a grooved edge. The grooved edge will snugly slide into a slit in your door frame.
- Cut the weatherstripping to the exact length of the surface you are applying it to, leaving no gaps.



natural-resources.canada.ca

Useful Links

Video: How To Install Weatherstripping - Lowes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3JK2zMR53c>

Video: Install Weatherstripping - Home Depot

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vy0JtpvGdHA&feature=youtu.be>

Keeping the Heat In - Natural Resources Canada

<https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/make-your-home-more-energy-efficient/keeping-the-heat/15768>



Energy Efficiency: **Title**

(General)

