



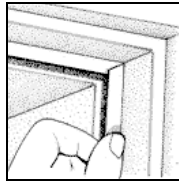
Stop Drafts with Weatherstripping

From Truevalue.com

With some energy-saving improvements, you can wait 10 to 15 years for a payback. Well, not so with weatherstripping. The new, flexible materials are inexpensive and the seal is better than the old metal weatherstripping that required a master carpenter to install. Typically, the payback in energy dollars saved comes within the first season. And with the added benefit of no cold drafts, the payback in comfort is immediate. Here are the basics for weatherstripping doors and double-hung windows, sealing attic accesses and electrical outlets.

Tools & Materials Checklist

- Tape measure
- Adhesive-backed vinyl, foam & tubular weatherstripping
- Door sweep
- Hacksaw
- Scissors
- Standard screwdriver (for outlet cover)
- Phillips screwdriver
- Drill or punch
- Stapler & 1/4" staples
- Foam outlet gaskets



WEATHERSTRIP DOORS

Step 1. Seal Top and Sides of Doors

One of the easiest and most effective types of weatherstripping for homeowners to install is a V-shaped, self-adhering vinyl strip. For doors, cut the vinyl strips to length with scissors and peel off the backing as you press it into place around the top and sides of the door frame or doorstop as directed by the manufacturer.



Tip: Prep the Surface

The product is only as good as its adhesive seal to the door frame. Thoroughly clean, rinse, and dry the surface before you apply the strips. Press them firmly in place with a small block of wood or similar hard object.



Step 2. Seal the Bottom of Doors

To stop drafts along the bottom of a door, install a door sweep. Use a hacksaw to cut an aluminum sweep to length (equal to the door width). Then with the door closed, position the sweep so that it rests just against the door sill. Mark and drill pilot holes for the mounting screws: and screw the sweep

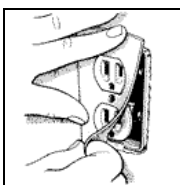


Tip: Door Sweeps

Sometimes badly, out-of-level floors or interior mats prevent using a standard sweep, such as the one shown here, because the sweep rubs against the floor or mat when it opens. If you have or anticipate that problem, purchase a sweep that has a spring mechanism that automatically lowers the sweep as the door is about to close and raises it as the door opens.

SEAL ELECTRIC OUTLETS

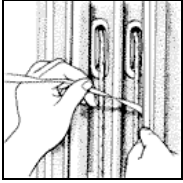
Open stud cavities can channel air from warm rooms to cold attics through leaky electric boxes. You can easily eliminate this loss of heat by inserting insulation pads behind the plate cover.



Seal the Fixture

Remove the electric switch or receptacle cover and install a precut foam insulation pad over the fixture and reinstall the cover.

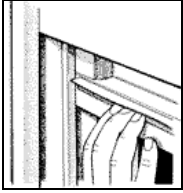
See back for more



WEATHERSTRIP DOUBLE-HUNG WINDOWS

Step 1. Weatherstrip the Channels

For double-hung windows, insulate the lower portion of the lower sash channel and the upper portion of the outer sash channel. Cut the strip so they are equal to the height of each sash. Open the sash fully and slip one end of the peeled strip behind the sash as needed so that the other end extends all the way to the sill (lower sash) or the head jamb (upper sash). Press the strip firmly in place.



Step 2. Weatherstrip the Window's Meeting Rail

Raise the lower sash and lower the upper sash to access the front edge of the meeting rail on the upper sash. Cut a V-strip to fit the width of the rail and press it into place with the V upside down (point facing up).

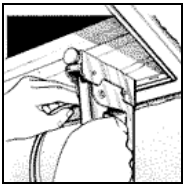
Step 3. Weatherstrip at the Window's Top and Bottom

Cut and install additional strips to seal the top of the upper sash and the bottom of the lower sash. Attach the strip, as shown in the manufacturer's installation diagrams, to the head of the window frame for the upper sash and to the bottom of the lower sash for a seal at the sill.

SEAL ATTIC ACCESS

Step 1. Seal Attic's Drop-down Access Panel

If you have an attic access panel, install adhesive-backed foam tape on the ledge or stop that the panel sits on when it is closed.



Step 2. Seal Attic's Disappearing Stairs

Lower your stair to measure the inside dimensions of the stairway frame. Cut vinyl tubular weatherstripping to length with scissors or a utility knife. Tack or staple the flange to the face of the frame so that the tubular portion projects about 1/8-inch below the frame. When the door closes, it compresses the gasket.



Tip: Proper Insulation

- Before you staple or tack tubular insulation completely, bring a light up into the attic and observe how the panel contacts the frame with the stair closed. Adjust the position of the weatherstripping as needed to assure a continuous seal, then lower stair to complete the installation.
- To conserve as much energy as possible, insulate the back of the panel with foam insulation panels or fiberglass batting insulation. Similarly, build an insulated cover over a disappearing stair. Use polystyrene foam panels and special adhesive. Don't forget to leave clearance for the stair assembly, which you can determine by having someone operate the stair while you observe and measure in the attic.

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