

Insulation & Weatherstripping

Recommendations & Considerations:

- It is important to seal air leaks around the house *before* adding insulation
- On the average home the combined surface area of small cracks, crevices, bypasses and holes would equal the cold air let in by a medium sized open window
- Caulk rule of thumb:
 - 1/4 cartridge per window
 - 1/2 cartridge per door
 - 2 cartridges for a two story chimney
 - 4 cartridges for a foundation sill
- Weather Stripping pros & cons:
 - *Foam tape* is good for attic hatches but poor durability for doors & windows
 - *Vinyl Flap* is flexible & forms an excellent seal but losses flexibility in cold winter months
 - *Tubular Silicone* is a very flexible door weather stripping that stays flexible year round
 - *Vinyl V-Strip* works well around double hung windows but only lasts 1-3 years on doors
- Loose fitting windows can loose up to 5x as much heat as a normal fitting window
- One inch of standard insulation equals the same heat stopping qualities as:
 - 3 1/4 inches of wood
 - 34 inches of brick
 - 8 1/2 inches of drywall
 - 46 inches of concrete
 - 17 inches of stone
- Adding a storm window to a single-pane window can cut heat loss by 50%
- Adding a storm window to a double pane window cuts heat loss an additional 25%
- Radiators bleed valves should be bled of air annually
 - Excessive layers of paint on radiators reduces their efficiency
- Water heating, appliances & lights account for 35-50% of the energy used in the average home
- Energy efficient electric water heaters can cut electric utility bills by 50%
- Gas water heaters are usually cheaper to operate
- Front loading clothes washers are more energy efficient, but have less capacity
- Proper landscaping (shade, wind breaks etc.) according to the EPA can reduce utility bills \$100-250 annually

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