

REDUCING AIR LEAKS FOR INCREASED ENERGY EFFICIENCY

SOURCE OF AIR INFILTRATION	SOLUTION
Attic hatch	Insulate the hatch opening. There are many DIY plans for this. See Energy Savers, Mother Nature Network, or the Old House Journal for ideas. Companies also sell several styles of pre-made insulating attic hatch covers.
Attic floor	Air seal any penetrations (wiring, plumbing, etc), and insulate between the joists. Follow manufacturer's instructions when insulating around pot lights and chimney stacks.
Cable TV and phone line service entrances	Caulk around service line entry
Air conditioner units	If wall mounted, caulk around the opening and use a winter cover. If it is an in-window unit, remove during seasons when it's not needed. When in use, use insulating panels and caulk to seal around the AC unit if it does not fill the entire opening.
Outdoor water faucets	Caulk around pipe where it meets the wall.
Dryer vents passing through walls	Install a vent cover that closes when dryer is not in use.
Vents and fan openings	Cover vents and opening when not in use.
Cracks in bricks, siding, stucco, or foundation	Use appropriate caulk for the material. Your local hardware store staff can help you find the right kind. Do not caulk the underside of siding or stucco. This area needs to remain open to allow moisture to escape.
Between chimney and siding	Caulk
Electric outlets	Use foam gasket behind outlet cover. These are available from your local hardware store and are made of fire-retardant foam.
Recessed lights	Call a professional to insulate these safely. Lights that are not rated for being in contact with insulation pose a serious fire risk if insulated.
Chimney flue	Close the damper when the fireplace is not in use. If you don't have a damper, have one installed. You can also use glass doors or an inflatable device to stop air from going up your chimney.
Around windows	Caulk around the window frame on the exterior and the interior; make sure the sash lock is functional and draws the sash tight; use a storm window or even removable plastic film.
Between foundation and sill	Use an appropriate caulk or expandable foam.