

Weatherize To Cut Energy Costs

When air moves in and out of your home through cracks and crevices, that's called infiltration. You want to find the source and eliminate it. Infiltration can occur in three different ways.

- Wind-driven infiltration occurs when the wind blows in through cracks in your house bringing cold air in and forcing warm air out. This cold/warm air displacement can happen in reverse during summer months.
- The chimney effect occurs when warm air rises, escaping through cracks, and draws cold air in at a lower level to replace it.
- Negative air pressure occurs when fuel-burning appliances decrease air pressure in your home, or air is expelled through your clothes dryer or exhaust fans. Air is then drawn in to equalize the air pressure.

Inspect your home to find the leaks and cracks. Then develop your strategy to eliminate air infiltration and cut your energy use!

Caulking and weather stripping will take care of the majority of your weatherizing needs. Caulk is used to permanently seal air leaks between stationary surfaces like the frame around the front door and the side of the house. Weather stripping is used to eliminate gaps between moving surfaces such as the front door and the door frame.

Start working on the outside of your home in the back, working around to the front and inside. Work on windows (replace glass in cracked windows and seal any loose panes) and doors. Other places to weatherize include electrical outlets and switches, the attic opening and fireplaces. For more information, check out these resources:

Weatherizing Your Home, Alliant Energy

http://www.alliantenergygeothermal.com/stellent2/groups/public/documents/pub/phtv_000491.pdf

Air Sealing Fact Sheet, U.S. Department of Energy

http://www.alliantenergygeothermal.com/stellent2/groups/public/documents/pub/phtv_000294.pdf

Cascio, Julie, Home and Family Ideas, June, 2008, page 3 available on the internet at <http://www.alaska.edu/uaf/ces/hhfd/>