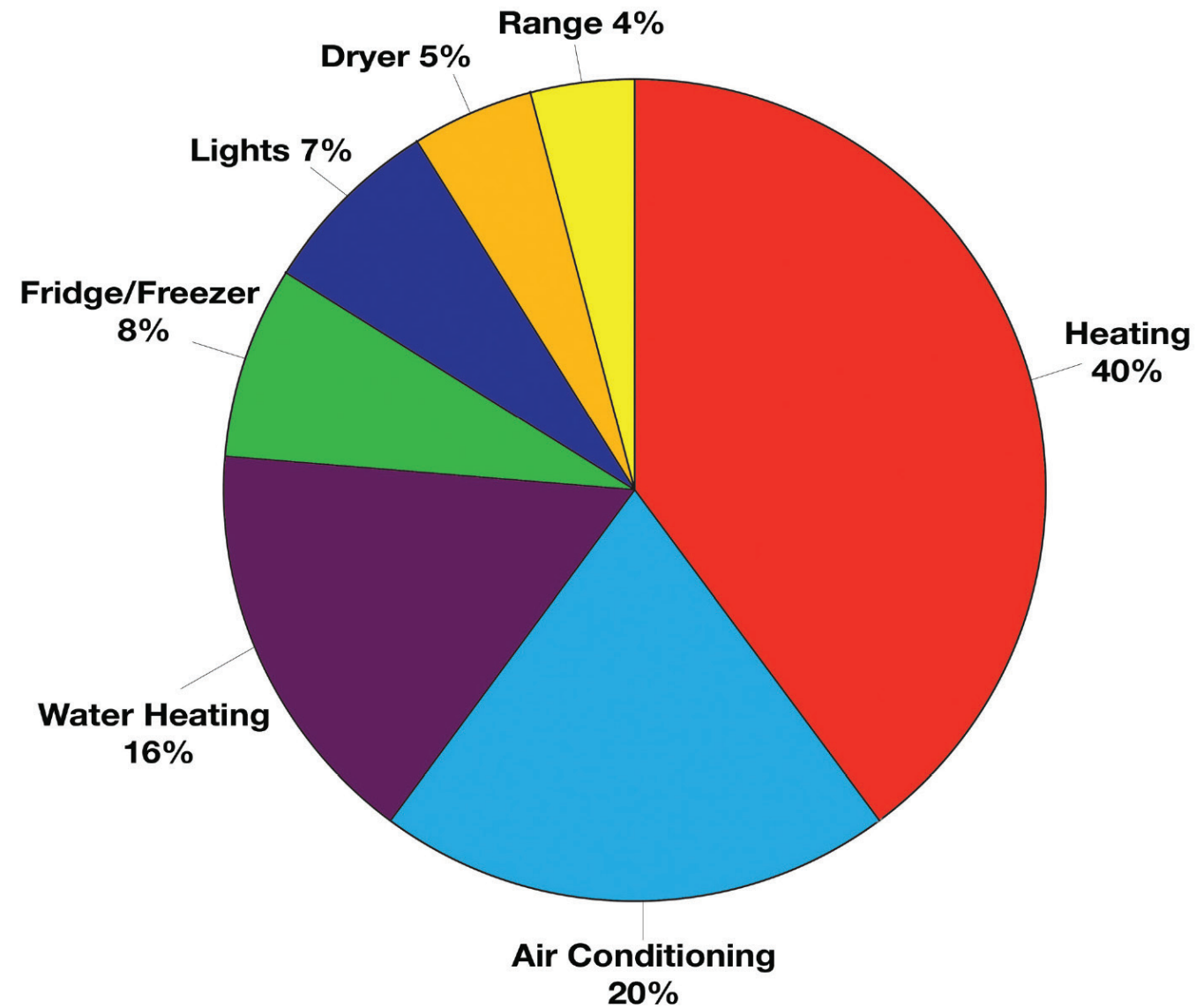


Home Energy Use



Waether-stripping brochure2025/8-25/MR

Weatherstripping Your Home Saves Energy and Money

Eliminates air drafts • Reduces heat loss • Requires no special skills

Small air leaks can add up to big dollar losses. Weatherstripping a one-eighth-inch gap around a door can save as much as \$14 per year. Weatherstripping is easy to do and requires no special skills.

Areas that need to be weatherstripped:

1. All exterior doors.
2. Furnace closet doors.
3. Attic access panels or doors.
4. Window sashes.
5. Electrical outlets and switches located on exterior house walls.

As a rule, if you can feel air or see light around a closed window or door, you need to weatherstrip.

Tools you'll need:

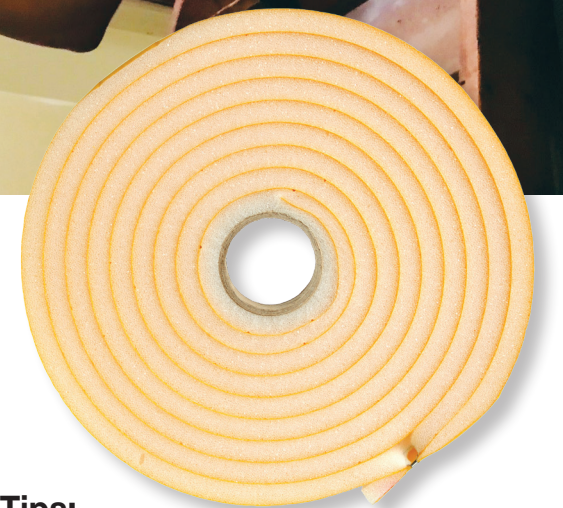
- Screwdriver
- Hammer
- Metal snips or hacksaw
- Tape measure
- Step ladder
- Weatherstripping kit
- Small nail (to start holes)

How much to buy:

Most weatherstripping is sold in kits of standard sizes. How much you will need depends on the number and size of doors or windows you plan to weatherstrip.

In the case of vinyl bulb gasket weather-stipping, which must be installed in one continuous piece per side, you need to measure door height and width to buy the correct length.

Foam outlet gaskets are sold in multiples to insulate several outlets throughout the house. If you can only insulate a few outlets, choose ones located on the north side of your home, where wind infiltration is the highest.



Safety Tips:

You'll need to use a ladder to reach some areas that must be weatherstripped. Practice the following ladder safety precautions:

- Level and block the ladder in place. Have a helper hold the ladder, if possible.
- Never stand on the top rung.
- Don't stretch to reach that last little spot—climb down and move the ladder.
- Use both hands to hold the sides—not the rungs—of the ladder while climbing up and down.

Installation Tips

1. Follow manufacturer’s directions as printed on the package. Before weatherstripping a door, close it and lock all locks to test for proper alignment. (Weatherstripping will not help a door that is poorly hung and does not close properly.) Doors and windows should open and close smoothly after weatherstripping is installed.

2. Remove old weatherstripping only if it interferes with installation of new material.

3. With door closed and all locks secured, apply weatherstripping on each side of the door frame. Apply another piece to the top of the door frame. Make sure weatherstripping does not pinch on the hinge-side of the door when closed.

4. If using felt or foam weatherstripping, the material will be attached to the door. (Material will not be
- visible when the door is closed.) If using vinyl bulb/ metal gasket, the material will be attached at the door jam and will be visible from outside.

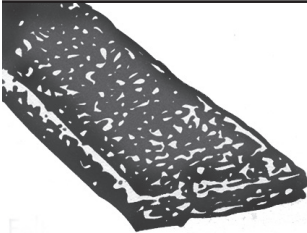
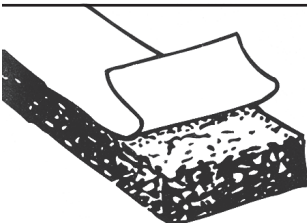
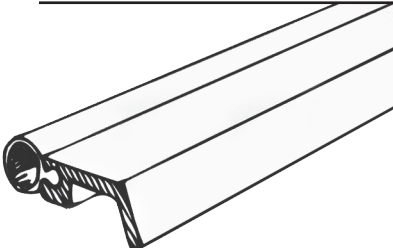
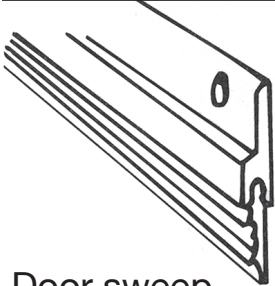
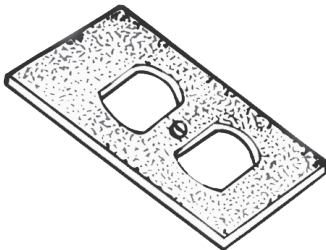
5. To install the door sweep, close the door and nail or screw the one-piece strip along the interior bottom edge of the door. The sweep should make a good seal with the threshold when closed.

6. With the window open, fasten weatherstripping along the bottom interior edge of the sash.

7. Electrical outlets and switch plates located on exterior walls can also contribute to heat loss. To weatherize, turn off the circuit breaker and remove the screws and plastic face cover, insert a UL-approved rubber gasket to seal the area around the switch plate. Place the face cover over the gasket and tighten the screws.



Uses and Properties of Common

Material	Recommended Uses	Installation	Remarks
 Felt (made of wool or other cloth)	Window sashes	Very easy. Requires glue, nails or staples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inexpensive• Not very durable, lasts 1 to 2 years• Rots when wet over long periods• Cannot be painted
 Sponge rubber with adhesive back	Attic access panels, furnace closet doors	Very easy. Requires self-adhesive or small nails	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inexpensive• Not very durable, but lasts longer than felt• Easily removed
 Vinyl bulb gasket	Exterior doors	Easy. Requires nails or screws	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderate cost• Very durable• Can compress unevenly to fill irregular spaces• Creates good pressure seal
 Door sweep	Exterior door bottoms	Easy. Requires nails or screws	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderate cost• Durable• Must seal with door threshold• Visible from inside
 Outlet gaskets	Electrical outlets and switch plates	Very easy. Requires screws	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inexpensive• Durable• Provides good seal