

Draft Proofing Your Home



Did you know that if you combined the gaps and cracks together in a typical home, the combined hole is about the size of a 1.5 square meter window? It's hard to keep a house comfortable when so much air is being sucked out. Some simple draft proofing strategies can help reduce your energy bills, keep you warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

Insulation

After plugging the holes in your house, the next best bang for your buck is insulation. Make sure it's installed correctly with minimal gaps. Badly installed insulation will give you little benefit. Keep in mind that down lights in your ceiling act like small chimneys and can suck the hot (or cool) air out of your living space. Use fire resistant down light covers in conjunction with insulation to minimise heat loss through the ceiling.

Vents (ceiling and walls)

Exhaust fans, cooling vents and ceiling vents all contribute to heat loss through the ceiling. For exhaust fans install the self closing types, use a draft stopper hat or similar cover. These open when the fan is on to exhaust the air, and close and seal when turned off. During the cold season close off or cover evaporative cooling system vents if you can, there are some neat magnetic covers available online or you could simply tape something over it. For basic open vents, if you don't need them just cover them up or seal them with an appropriate cover.

Chimneys

Great at sucking out hot air (even when you don't have a fire going)! When it's not in use always close the damper. If you don't use it much, consider a chimney balloon (www.chimneyballoons.com.au) to block those drafts. Alternatively roll up some insulation and push it up the chimney (this can be messy on removal) or simply block it up (top and bottom) if you're never going to use it.

Doors, windows and skylights

There are often gaps around doors, windows and skylights. There is a wide range of seals available for most jobs. Choose the most appropriate seal for your situation. If you have skylights, having them double glazed, or a well sealed ceiling diffuser installed, helps reduce heat loss in winter. If you have a skylight that can be opened, use this feature to ventilate and cool the house in summer

Pet flaps/doors

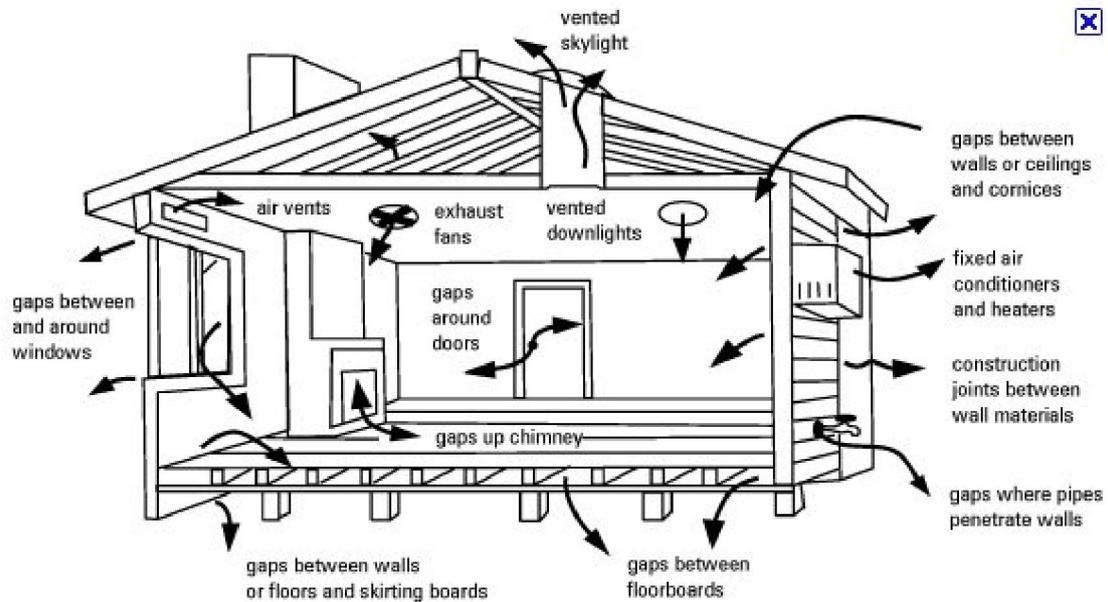
These are often forgotten, use a good quality brush seal to minimise heat loss.

Construction gaps

If you have any construction gaps (eg: between floor boards and walls, around door frames or where pipes penetrate the building fabric), use the appropriate seal to block it up. There is a wide range of poly filler, expanding foam, builder's mastic and other products to do the job. Blocking these up will also help to keep the bugs out!



Where does it all go!



If you need any assistance with installation, contact your local handy man or builder.

For any queries or additional information on this tip sheet please contact Green Moves Australia on (03) 9024 5515 or 1300 898 742

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