



# POWER

## Source

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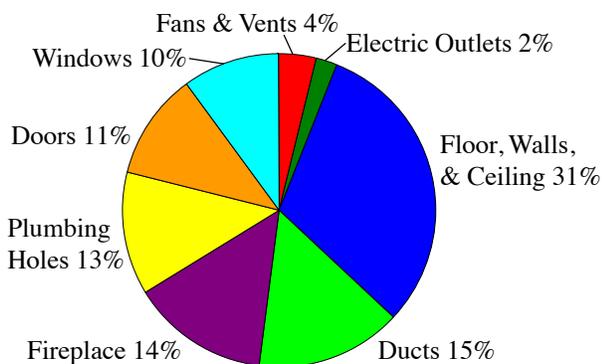
energy  
efficiency  
facts

## LOCATING & SEALING AIR LEAKS

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 25 to 40 percent of the energy used for heating and cooling a typical home is lost due to air leakage. Warm air leaking into your home during the summer and out of your home during the winter can waste a lot of energy dollars. That's why tightening up your home is the first step you should take in cutting your energy costs. A modest investment in time and effort can pay real dividends when it comes to reducing energy costs. Experts say a \$25 investment in caulking and weather-stripping could result in hundreds of dollars of energy savings every year.

How does air escape? Air leaks in and out of your home through every hole, nook, and cranny. Common leakage sites include: plumbing holes through walls, floors and ceilings, around chimneys, fireplace dampers, attic access hatches, recessed lights and fans, wiring holes, missing plaster, electrical outlets and switches, moldings around windows, doors and baseboards, and dropped ceilings above bathtubs and kitchen cabinets (see figure 1).

Typical Air Leakage Locations



Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy, *Energy Savers Guide*

### Getting Started

Repair all obvious sources of air leakage first, such as broken windows and holes where air can enter through the ceiling, walls, or floor. Check anywhere building materials join and look for daylight that is visible through the cracks. After these have been properly sealed, you will be ready to tighten up other less obvious air leakage areas.

### Caulking vs. Weather-stripping

Caulking is used between non-moving parts where the gap is less than 1/2 inch wide (e.g. between window frame and wall). Apply caulk on a clean dry surface after removing any old caulk and paint – the best time to caulk is during dry weather when the temperature is above 45 degrees. Weather-stripping comes in cleverly designed strips of felt, rubber, metal, or plastic that fills the spaces around doors, windows, and attic hatches – It compresses and seals when they are shut. There are a variety of weather-stripping materials available from your local hardware store.

### No Cost

• **Identify and prioritize** where leakage might be taking place – air leakage locations are not always obvious and easy to find (see figure 1). Prioritize your air sealing strategy by identifying the biggest leaks first. On a windy day, locate leaks by running your hands near those leakage sites mentioned in figure 1.

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**LEAKS** from PAGE 1

- **Lock your windows to make sure they are shut.** Locking a window helps create an air-tight seal.
- **Keep the fireplace damper closed when the fireplace is not in use.** Even when the damper is closed it is still leaking air and taking your money up the chimney. In a well insulated home, an open damper can raise heating and cooling energy consumption by 30 percent. An inadequately sealed fireplace is one of the worst sources of air leakage in the home. According to the Department of Energy, sealing and weather-stripping the fireplace in a typical home can reduce air leakage by 14 percent or more. If you're not using your fireplace, seal it up.

**Low Cost**

- **Window putty** (glazing compound) is used to seal a loose windowpane.
- **Select the best product to do the job.** Ask your local hardware store attendant for the best sealing product for your project. Discuss the location, surface type, size of leak, etc.
- **Seal the leaks.** The best and most affective place to seal a home is on the inside. This not only prevents air movement, it also prevents moisture from accumulating in the wall and ceiling cavities.
- **Caulk the leaks in your ceiling.** Typical insulation does not stop air leakage. When you're up in the attic, look for dirty spots in the insulation. This often indicates a hole where air leaks into and out of your house. Caulk areas where air might escape from such places as ceiling light fixtures, wiring and plumbing holes in the kitchen and bath, electrical junction boxes, and recessed light fixtures.
- **A foam backer rod** is used to fill large or deep cracks; then this is covered and sealed with caulk.
- **Rope caulk** can be used to air seal many leaky areas around the home – especially windows. This inexpensive material is very easy to apply and later, if you want to open the window, it's easy to remove. Note: always designate one window in each room as the fire escape and make sure that it is operable.
- **An attic hatch or pull-down stairway** in the heated and cooled part of your home needs to be weather-stripped and insulated.
- **Electrical outlet cover gaskets** reduce air leakage through electrical outlets. Although the savings are small (about two percent of heating and cooling costs) the cost is also low and it is an easy do-it-yourself project.
- **Window pulley seals are inexpensive and easy to install.** Many older double-hung windows have a rope and weight system to make it easier to raise and lower the window. The peal-and-stick pulley seals stops air leakage at this location while allowing the window to continue to function.

**Investment**

- **The duct system** in a typical home loses about 20 percent of the air that moves through it due to leaks and poorly sealed connections. This results in higher utility bills and an uncomfortable home. Observe the condition of your ducts; particularly how they are sealed; if uninsulated, check for gaps or air escaping at the joints. If the ducts are insulated, make sure the insulation is vapor sealed and securely taped. Consult a duct-sealing contractor and make sure that mastic or UL-approved duct sealing tape is being used (common "duct tape" does not hold up on ducts and should not be used). Also, ensure that the ducts are insulated with R-5 duct insulation and carefully vapor sealed.

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What you’ll need to get started:

- **Your account number.** It’s located in the upper left corner of your bill
- **A password** which is your account number without the last three digits (example: 12345)
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Click the “View or Pay Your Bill Online” on our website “fecnm.org”. You will be directed to our Customer Services Portal (*if the PAYMENTS tab is not visible, click the compatibility view icon next to the security lock on your URL address*). Select the PAYMENTS tab and click the “make payment” option. Enter your account number as it appears on your bill and the password which is your account number without the last three digits. Once you are logged-in, you will be prompted to change your password. Enter your Current Password (acct no. without last 3 digits), New Password, and Confirm New Password. These are required fields. The New Hint field is optional. Once password has been changed, click Submit.

Your Account List will be visible. If you have more than one account, all your accounts will be shown. Click on the account or accounts for which you want to make payment then click Continue. You will immediately be directed to your Account Profile. Enter the required fields and click Submit.

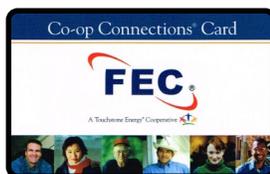
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**Which would you rather do without? Lunch out, or electricity for a day?**



For about the cost of a burger and fries, most of our members get all the convenience and comfort of electricity for a day. Which would you rather give up lunch out, or your heating, cooling, hot water, entertainment, clean clothes, lights, and a home-cooked meal?

**Electricity – its still  
a great value!**

# Update Older Appliances To Save Time

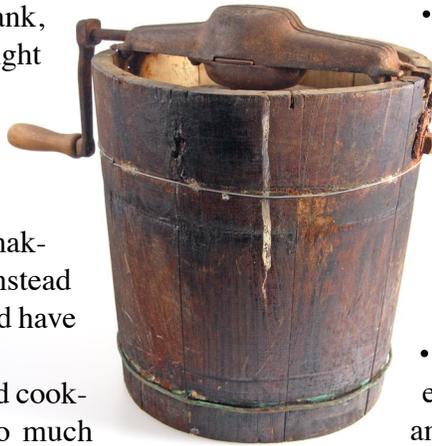
Hand-churning ice, sugar, cream, and fruit into your favorite summer ice cream has a certain charm, especially if it evokes memories of hot July afternoons spent blending the sweet treat at grandma’s house.

Some, those that were too little to crank, might have been useful as extra weight to sit on top of the freezer while others did all the cranking.

Grandma most likely didn’t have an electric ice cream maker. If she had, she could have cut the job of making ice cream down to 20 minutes instead of big portion of the day. And it would have been a lot easier on the arm!

Electric versions of old-fashioned cooking tools make meal preparation so much faster and easier that it’s worth considering an investment or two. The microwave oven, of course, is a top time-saver at dinner time, steaming, baking, melting, and reheating at speeds two to five times faster than on the stove or in a conventional oven. Other examples:

- A pressure cooker can simmer a stew in half an hour – versus two or three on the stove top.
- A high-speed blender with blades sharp enough to



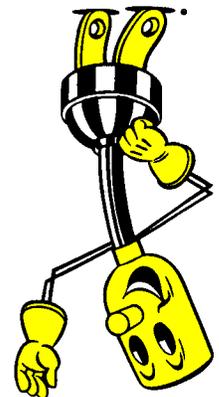
chop ice can turn fresh, crunch ingredients into soup in less than two minutes. At the higher end of the price scale, blenders can even heat the soup so you don’t have to warm it up on the stovetop.

- An induction stovetop sends heat directly to the pot rather than transferring it through stovetop coils, making quick work of everything from heating up food to boiling eggs.
- Hand-held blenders let you whip and puree food right in the pot while it’s on the stove, so you don’t have to transfer your ingredients to a bowl on the countertop.
- Programmable appliances like coffee makers allow you to preset them so they turn on and off at the same time every day, saving you from trekking to the kitchen the minute you stumble out of bed.
- Washing machine and dryer settings on newer models let you presoak now and wash later – without resetting the controls. Permanent-press and steam-fresh settings work better to deliver wrinkle-free clothing right from the dryer.

## SCAM ALERT!

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