



A  Sempra Energy™ company

Facts About

Weather-Stripping and Caulking



E N E R G Y S A V I N G S

Weather-stripping and caulking are low-cost money saving products that you can install yourself. Each can save you up to 6% on heating and cooling costs.

These products help seal your home and lessen drafts, keeping heat inside during winter and cool air inside during summer.



They are easy to install. In fact, you can probably do your entire home in one weekend. Home improvement stores will have the materials you need and can help you select the right product for your home.

WEATHER-STRIPPING

Weather-stripping is used to create a tight seal between the moving parts of doors and windows. It should be installed around the casings and jambs so a complete seal is made.

When deciding which weather-stripping materials to buy, consider the installation instructions, how long it will last and the price. For example, a slightly more expensive material may be a better buy because it will last longer and require less maintenance.

The type of weather-stripping you choose will depend on where it will be used. Some materials are designed for inside use and others for outside application.

Instructions for installing weather-stripping can be found in home improvement books or weather-stripping kits. You can also ask store personnel for advice on installation and which type of material you should buy.

WEATHER-STRIPPING DOORS

- ◆ All doors leading outside should be weather-stripped, as should doors between heated and unheated spaces.
- ◆ Weather-stripping for doors is designed for two basic areas: for the base of the door or for the casings and the jambs.



- ◆ To install weather-stripping on the base of the door it may be necessary to remove the door. Weather stripping can then be installed on the door threshold, the bottom of the door, or in both places.
- ◆ A variety of weather-stripping materials for doors is available, such as: vinyl, foam, felt, V-shaped metal and polypropylene strips.

WEATHER-STRIPPING WINDOWS

Generally, window weather-stripping materials are the same as door materials. The type you choose may depend on the style of your windows.

- ◆ Windows should be weather-stripped on all sides.
- ◆ Kits are available with all the necessary tools and materials at many home improvement stores.

CAULKING

Caulking should be used to seal gaps between nonmoving parts of doors and windows (such as around frames) and other small openings around the house.



As a house settles, the building materials will often swell and contract, resulting in gaps. These gaps allow outside air to leak in. Caulking can keep hot air out in summer and cold air out in winter and help reduce your energy use.

You should use the highest quality caulking material suited for your job. It will probably be easier to apply, perform better, last longer, and require less maintenance.

Common types of caulking are oil-base, acrylic-latex, butyl, polyvinyl and silicone. Check with home improvement stores for the caulking that best suits your needs.

Caulking materials come in rope form, tubes and disposable cartridges for use with caulking guns. The most common method of applying caulking is with a caulking gun.

WHERE TO CAULK

Check these places around your home for gaps, and if you find any, apply the proper caulking.

- ◆ Between siding and door and window frames.
- ◆ Between siding and drip caps, such as those above sliding doors.
- ◆ Between protrusions and the main part of the house.
- ◆ Under windowsills where they meet the siding.
- ◆ At all corners where siding comes together.
- ◆ Where two different building materials come together.
- ◆ Where chimneys and stacks meet the roof.
- ◆ Where any gaps exist inside the house, such as between ceiling and walls or walls and floors.

- ◆ Around door and window frames inside the house, as well as outside, to ensure a complete seal.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you'd like more information on energy efficiency, contact SDG&E at **1-800-411-SDGE (7343)**, or by e-mail at *info@sdge.com*. You can also visit our Web site at *www.sdge.com*.

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