SEALMAXX

The Sealmax Guide to Weatherstripping

What you need to know to select the right weatherstripping for your home.

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Weatherstripping 101

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide provides valuable information about where to use weatherstripping as well as the many varieties and their application.

BEFORE YOU BUY

At the back of this guide you will find a worksheet to keep track of your measurements and other important information you need when you go to buy weatherstripping.

Weatherseal or weatherstripping is used to seal leaks that allow too much airflow in your home. While a certain amount of airflow is good for your home, leaks can:

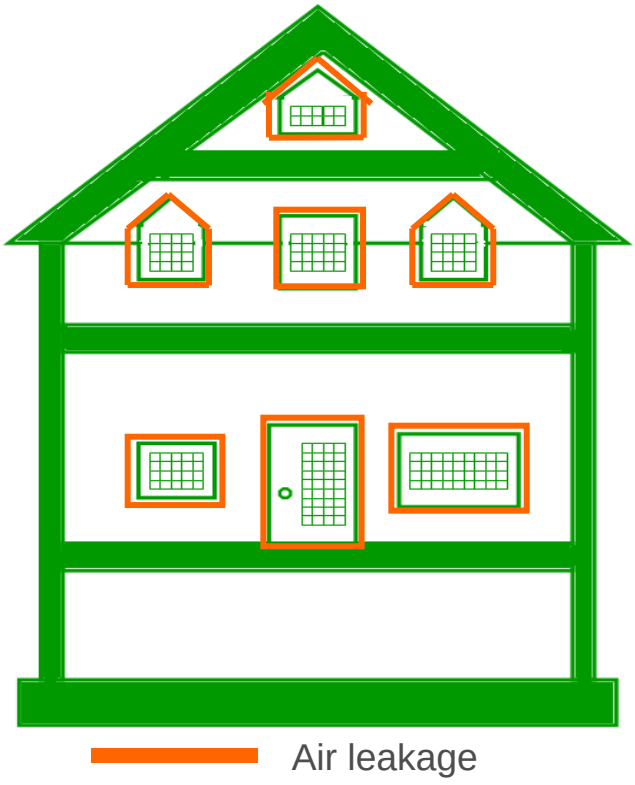
- Contribute to drafts and energy loss.
- Act as entry points for household pests..
- Allow noise to travel more freely.
- Contribute to mildew, dust and allergies.

VARIETIES FOR EVERY JOB

Weatherstripping comes in many varieties but the most common are made of foam, plastic, rubber or vinyl.

Some weatherstripping comes in a roll and is made of woven fibers and others are a single piece of molded material that is shaped specifically to make a good seal on your doors and windows.

Where to use Weatherstripping



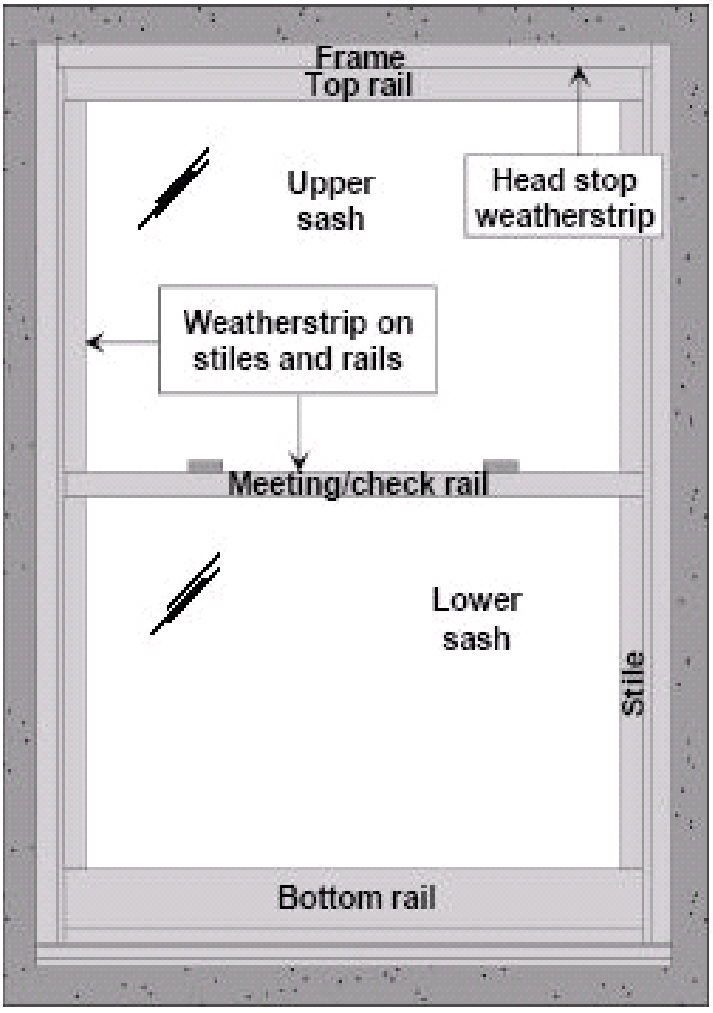
Virtually every door and window in your home is a good location for weatherstripping.

Most home energy experts say that weatherstripping will pay for itself in energy savings in less than one season.

Cracks around doors and windows are common areas of air leakage between the interior and exterior. The result is wasted energy and possible moisture problems.

Installing weatherstripping in these areas is a simple way to reduce the amount of air leaking into or out of your home.

Applying Weatherstripping to Windows



To figure how much weatherstripping you will need, add the perimeters of all windows and doors to be weather stripped.

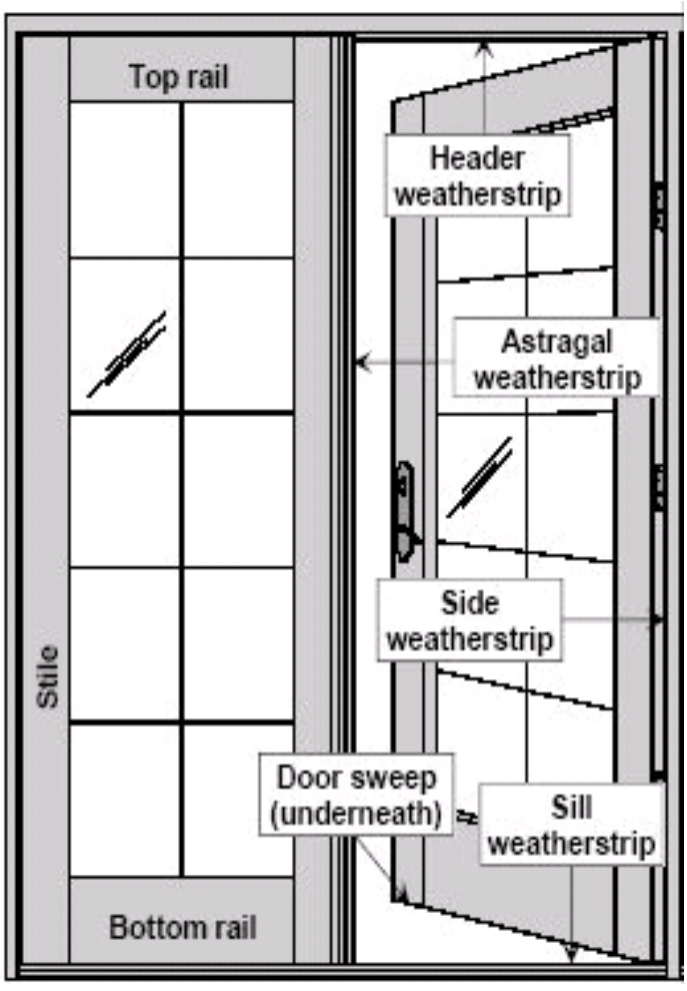
Add 5% for waste and cutting.

Almost every joint or movable part of your window is a location for weatherstripping.

WHY DO I HAVE TO SEAL MY WINDOWS?

While many home have windows with good seals, it is not always the case. In fact until energy efficiency regulations were put in place, proper window seals weren't considered important by window manufacturers and builders. Even if your house is newer, you can increase your comfort while saving money and improving the environment by properly sealing your windows with weatherstripping.

Applying Weatherstripping to Doors



Front and back doors are exposed to lots of wind, rain and snow and can easily become warped by hard use and bad weather.

If you have a drafty outside door, add weatherstripping along the top, bottom and side edges of the door.

For even more protection:

- Put another piece of weatherstripping along the vertical doorstop, so that it will press against the outside face of the door when it's closed
- Add a door sweep on the bottom edge of your door

ARE THE TINY GAPS UNDER MY DOORS REALLY A PROBLEM?

Yes. If you had a 6-inch-square hole in one of your walls, you would do something about it in a hurry. Yet thousands of homeowners have 1/8-inch-wide gaps around their doors, and this is just about the equivalent air loss of that 6-inch-square hole. Weatherstripping every door in your home ensures you aren't letting your hard earned dollars leak out of you home along with your warm and cool air.

Types of Weatherstripping

Type	Description	Best Uses	Cost	Advantages	Disadvantages
Woven pile	Furry strip that comes in a roll. Fabric on a rubber, silicon or plastic base. Typically has adhesive backing.	Sliding and hinged doors. Window frames and stops.	$	Easy to use. Can be applied with other seals for secondary protection or over worn seals.	Moderately durable. Visible.
Reinforced vinyl	Pliable strip gasket that applies to foam, wood or metal strips.	Door and window stops.	$$	Good draft protection. Comes is wide variety of colors to help with invisibility.	Some styles do not stick to metal windows or doors.
Door sweep	Metal or plastic plate with plastic, vinyl or fabric pile sweep	Interior door bottoms..	$$	Useful for uneven thresholds.	May cause wear on carpets and floors.
Magnetic	Magnet backed foam, vinyl, rubber or plastic strips.	Metal doors.	$$	Easy to install and very effective air seal.	Only work on metal surfaces.
Tension Seal	V shaped plastic or vinyl or a springy metal strip that uses its shape to press against the sides of an opening and create a seal.	The inside track of windows or the tops and sides of an exterior door.	Varies	Durability. Appearance. Highly effective as a secondary seal.	May not recover as quickly as a foam seal after being compressed.

Types of Weatherstripping

Type	Description	Best Uses	Cost	Advantages	Disadvantages
Frost Plate	Aluminum or other metal plate for door bottom..	Sealing to bottom of an exterior door.	$$$	Very durable.	Can be difficult to install. In some cases can act as a short step and be seen as a tripping hazard.
Felt	Comes in rolls and occasionally is reinforced with a metal strip.	The bottoms of doors and windows.	$.	Easy to install. Inexpensive.	Often only good for a season or 2 especially in higher traffic areas. Does not help with moisture. Highly visible.
Sealed Foam	Flexible foamy strips often covered with polyethylene..	Door frames, bottom of windows.	$$	Very effective sealer. Easy to install.	Push in varieties require door frames with a channel. Others need to be affixed.
Ta;e	Comes in rolls. Typically made of open cell foam or rubber.	Top and bottom of window sash, interior doors, attic hatches.	$	Inexpensive.	Durability is low and not as easy to install as pile.. Not intended for places with regular use or traffic. Highly visible.

Weatherstripping Worksheet

Use this worksheet to keep track of your window and door dimensions as well as the types of weatherstripping you may be considering.

You can take it to the store with you and make sure you get the right product for the job.

	Window 1	Window 2	Window 3	Window 4
Location				
Top measure				
Bottom measure				
Left measure				
Right measure				
Perimeter				

	Door 1	Door 2
Location		
Top measure		
Bottom measure		
Left measure		
Right measure		
Perimeter		

Notes

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