

Do-It-Yourself Window Improvements for Extreme Temperatures

While having lots of windows is visually appealing and lets in a lot of natural light, leaks in windows can cause your HVAC system to work overtime. This can lead to uncomfortable temperatures in your home and higher energy spending.

Outlined below are several inexpensive, do-it-yourself projects to make your windows more efficient without needing to hire professionals or replace them completely.

INSPECT YOUR WINDOWS

First, identify where the air is getting in on each window. Inspect the inside and outside of the window frame for visible gaps or places where the window is not flush to the

wall. You can also feel the window for places where the frame does not extend to the length of the window. If you see visible gaps, this is likely the source of inefficiency.

FILL IN THE GAPS

Once you have identified gaps in your windows, you can seal these to prevent air from leaking. All of the materials you need are available at hardware stores. Before purchasing materials, make sure to measure all of the windows to know how much you will need.

On the exterior of the home, you can use caulk to seal gaps. Make sure the caulk you purchase is suitable for outdoors and can be painted if you want it to blend better with the rest of the window.



Sealing window gaps to stop air leaks and improve energy efficiency. Adobe Express photo

INSIDE THE HOME

If you see and feel gaps on the inside of your windows, rope caulk can seal them but is less discrete than some other options. There is also a clear sealant that can be applied to seal gaps.

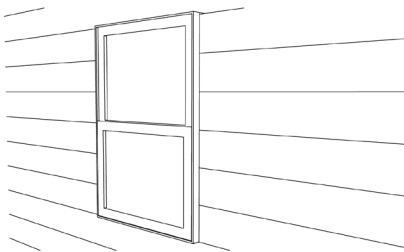
The weather stripping at the top or bottom of the window may also need to be replaced as it tends to deteriorate over time. There are foam and rubber options for weatherstripping available, and you can select one based on your window frame style and needs.

When you remove the existing weatherstrips, be sure to remove any debris from the window and wipe down the window frame before you install new strips.

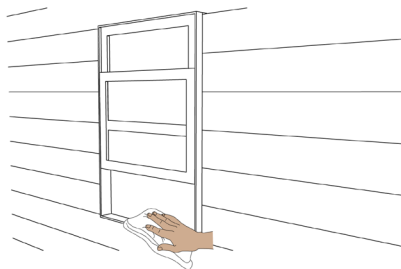
Measure your window and cut the weatherstripping to fit the frame. Most options are self-adhering and will not require any specialized equipment to install. Once it is on the bottom or top of your window, cut any excess off. Shut the window to secure it in place and check that no light is coming through the weatherstripping.

Steps on how to weatherstrip a window

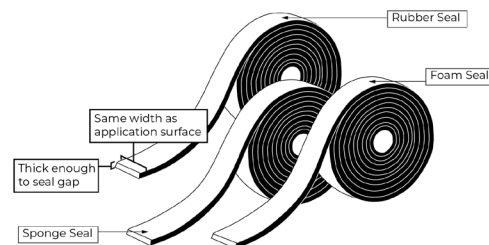
- 1 Start by inspecting the window.



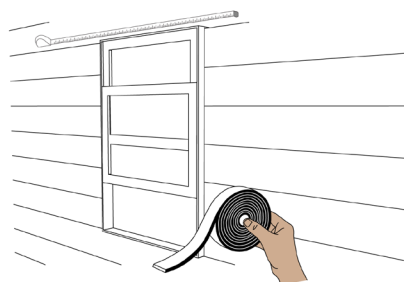
- 2 Make sure your sills and casings are in good condition and clean the surface that will have weather strip.



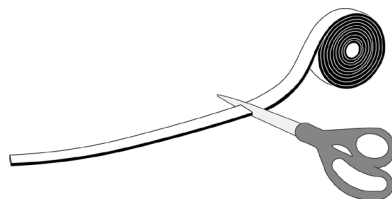
- 3 Weather stripping comes in different styles; choose the one that's the right width of your window and is thick enough to seal the gap.



- 4 Measure your window frame and choose the preferred type of adhesive weather stripping.



- 5 Cut a piece of the weather strip to the right length.



- 6 Install the weather stripping so that the material compresses when the window closes.



EASIER WINDOW FIXES

Another option is installing a window kit. These include double-sided tape and a clear plastic layer installed on the window's interior. This creates a dead air cavity that acts as a buffer between your home's interior and the temperatures

outside. There are many different brands of window kits available at hardware stores, and it is important to follow the specific brand's instructions to get the best results.



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