

How to Weatherstrip your Windows and Doors with Shane O'Neill



Feeling a winter chill? If you run your hand around the perimeter of your closed door and feel a cool draft, your door weatherstripping is probably worn, cracked, or deformed. Lift the door by the doorknob to check for loose hinges. If the door moves upward, tighten the top hinge screws. Stop energy-wasting air leaks around entry doors by installing a weatherstripping kit with a foam flange or vinyl bulb. Maintaining an airtight seal on your doors is essential for stopping cold drafts and keeping your home comfortable. Replacing door weather stripping on newer and older doors is fairly easy. Installing new door weather stripping on older doors is fairly easy, and we'll show you how to do it in this hand-out.

With so many different types of weatherstripping lining shelves at the hardware store, it is important to know which ones are the most common options by material and profile so that you'll know just what to install to chase away the chill.

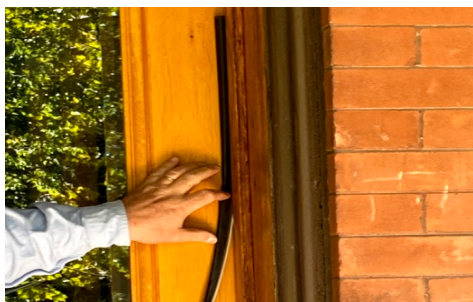
For energy-saving solutions, weatherstrip your home with our selection of door sweeps, rubber foam, sealing tape, screen patches, draft sealers, and more.



1. V Strip (Tension Seal) - V strip, also known as tension seal, is a durable plastic or metal strip folded into a 'V' shape that springs open to bridge gaps.

It Goes Along the sides of a double-hung or sliding window; on the top and sides of a door.

This DIY weatherstripping is pretty easy to use. Just cut to the desired length with scissors, then peel and stick, or install with finishing nails.



2. Felt - Felt is sold in rolls, either plain or reinforced with a pliable metal strip. Though inexpensive, it usually lasts only a year or two. It goes around a door or window sash; in the door's jamb so that it compresses against the door. To Install it, cut to the desired length with a utility knife, then staple or nail in place.

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3. Foam Tape - Foam tape is made from open or closed-cell foam or EPDM rubber with a sticky back. This type of weatherstripping is sold in varying widths and thicknesses, which makes it best for irregular-sized cracks. It goes on top and bottom of window sashes; inside door frames. To install it, cut to length, and adhere where needed.



4. Door Sweeps - Door sweeps are flat pieces of plastic, aluminum, or stainless steel fitted with a strip of nylon, plastic, or vinyl or a sponge brush to fill the space between the door and threshold. It goes along the bottom of the interior side of a door. To install it cut to your door's width if needed, and install with screws.



5. Tubular Rubber, Vinyl, or Silicone - Tubular Rubber, Vinyl, or Silicone are effective air barriers; versions made of narrow sponge rubber or vinyl tubing come attached to a wood or metal mounting strip. Silicone types are usually inserted into milled grooves. It goes at the base of doors and windows; top or bottom of a window sash; the bottom of a door; between a door and its jamb. To install it, peel and stick, or fasten with screws through slot holes; silicone seals are pressed

into a channel you create with a router.

Choose a type of weatherstripping that will withstand the friction, weather, temperature changes, and wear and tear associated with its location. For example, when applied to a door bottom or threshold, weatherstripping could drag on carpet or erode as a result of foot traffic. Weatherstripping in a window sash must accommodate the sliding of panes -- up and down, sideways, or out. The weatherstripping you choose should seal well when the door or window is closed but allow it to open freely.

Good work! You can look forward to a more comfortable winter!

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