

caulk and weather strip

when, why and where to use them



taking responsibility

As an individual, your efficient use of energy brings benefits such as lower bills, improved comfort levels in your home and a reduced personal impact on the environment.

Acting together, our individual choices add up—for the benefit of our community, our environment and our energy future. That's the power of working together.

As your community energy company, we are committed to sharing our experience and energy expertise. You can always contact us for:

- Answers to your energy questions.
- Energy efficiency information and advice.
- Help in evaluating energy-saving options.
- Assistance in finding energy-efficient products.

How to stay comfortable

There are many options to consider when selecting caulk and weather stripping. This booklet aims to give you a higher level of comfort with the decisions you make. We take a look at the types of weather stripping and the areas of your home that may need caulking. For more information, please visit mge.com or call our Home Energy Line at 252-7117.

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The results to expect

Is your home uncomfortable in the winter? Caulk and weather-stripping materials may help the problem. They can seal out moisture and reduce drafts. But don't expect a big reduction in your energy bills.

Why not? You may be fixing only a small part of the air leakage problem in your home. Leaks in the attic and around the foundation have a much larger effect on your bill.

The best way to fix these large leaks is to hire a professional to do a blower-door test.



Blower-door testing

To test for air leaks, a blower door is mounted in an exterior doorway (see photo below). The blower door simulates the effects of a strong wind. This makes air leaks easier to find and seal. Contractors measure the amount of air leakage and then locate and seal the hidden air and ductwork leaks.



Photo courtesy of the Energy Conservatory

Technician conducting blower-door test.

The Focus on Energy Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program offers “Cash-Back Rewards” if you have a home assessment completed and make energy-efficient improvements (see Resources).


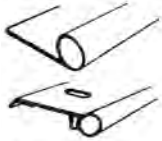

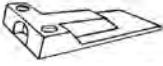





Use the right weather strip

Select a weather strip for either a compression or a sliding application. A compression application is weather stripping squeezed between two surfaces to make a seal. A sliding application is weather stripping that permits two surfaces to slide against each other.

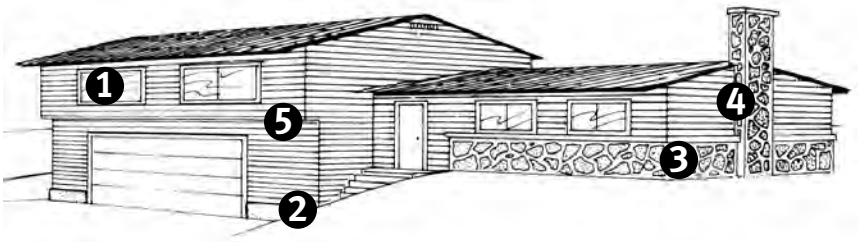
Tips

- Use durable products for long-term solutions.
- Be sure doors and windows are in proper working condition before weather stripping.
- Clean all surfaces before application.

Weather-stripping chart

| | Material | Type | | Application | | | Effectiveness | Durability |
|---|--|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| | | Compression | Sliding | Window | Door | Threshold | | |
|  | V-Strips (metal or adhesive-backed plastic) | | | | | | | |
| | V-shape | yes | yes | yes | yes | no | good | good |
|  | Jamb-up Gaskets | | | | | | | |
| | Flexible | yes | not as good | yes | fair | no | good | fair |
| | Rigid | yes | not as good | yes | yes | no | good | very good |
|  | EPDM (with cold-weather adhesive) | yes | not as good | yes (not double-hung) | yes | no | excellent | excellent |
|  | Window Pulley Seals | n/a | n/a | yes | no | no | good | very good |
|  | Door Sweeps | yes | no | no | no | yes | fair | good |
|  | Door Shoes | yes | no | no | no | yes | good | very good |
|  | Vinyl Bulb Threshold | yes | no | no | no | yes | good | good |
|  | Interlocking Threshold | yes | no | no | no | yes | excellent | excellent |
|  | Closed-Cell Foam Tape (adhesive back) | yes | no | yes (not double-hung) | yes | no | excellent | fair |

Where to caulk



Apply caulk where two different materials or parts of the house meet.

Exterior areas include:

1. Windows and doors—between the frames and siding; at the tops, sides and under the bottom sills.
2. Sills—the bottom of the house where the wood rests on the foundation.
3. Penetrations—openings cut for water faucets, clothes dryer vents, electric or gas services or other equipment.
4. Chimney or other masonry material—where it meets siding.
5. Overhanging floors.

What to use

Siliconized acrylic latex caulk is good for general purpose use. Pure silicone caulk lasts longer but check the expiration date. Caulk has a limited shelf life. Check the label for paintability. Look for caulks that meet ASTM C920, Class 25, for a combination of high flexibility and good resistance to weathering. For masonry, use caulk labeled for that use.

When to caulk

Caulk is easier to apply in moderate weather. Surfaces should be clean, dry and grease-free. Check the instructions on the tube for temperature limits.

Targeted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

This program assists qualifying Wisconsin residents in making energy-efficiency improvements to their homes. The improvements are completed by program consultants at minimal costs to the homeowner and will make your home more comfortable, safe and energy efficient.

Wisconsin residents who receive both their natural gas and electricity from participating utilities (you may receive both from one utility) and who meet the income requirements are eligible to participate. In addition, if you are a landlord with qualifying tenants, partial financial grants may be available for your rental property.

To find out if you qualify for this program, contact Focus on Energy (see Resources).

Look for this symbol when you shop



ENERGY STAR® labeled products use less energy than other products. They reduce your energy costs and help to protect the environment. We're an ENERGY STAR partner. Learn more about qualifying products at www.energystar.gov or call the Home Energy Line at 252-7117.

Resources

U.S. Department of Energy - “Caulking and Weatherstripping”
[Tinyurl.com/4ftp57](https://tinyurl.com/4ftp57)

Focus on Energy

“Home Performance with ENERGY STAR” offers Cash-Back Rewards for energy improvements.

“Targeted Home Performance with ENERGY STAR” assists qualifying Wisconsin residents in making energy-efficiency improvements to their homes.

focusonenergy.com

800.762.7077



listening. learning.

MGE takes responsibility to provide information and education to serve our customers and stakeholders. We educate customers today to help inform their decision making. We educate tomorrow's stakeholders so they can help plan our energy future.

Keep your thermostat at 68°F or lower for the heating season.

If we all setback 1°, we can save enough gas for 3,100 homes.

Working together we can make a difference.

Contact us for information about:


- Heating/Air-conditioning.
- Insulating/Weatherizing.
- Lighting.
- Windows/Doors.
- Appliances.
- Water heating.

Get more home energy information at:

- mge.com/home.
- Home Energy Line 608-252-7117.
- 800-245-1125.

Questions about billing? Call:

- 608-252-7222.
- 800-245-1125.

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