

8 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT DRAUGHT STOPPING & AIR SEALING

Healthy Homes Factsheet Series
by Warmer Homes



CAN BE CHEAP WINS

Uncontrolled air leakage through gaps, cracks and openings can account for 10–25% of a home's total heat loss — yet draught stopping is often one of the cheapest fixes available.



DRAUGHTS vs VENTILATION

Ventilation is controlled, planned airflow that improves air quality. Draughts are uncontrolled air leaks that waste heat and let in cold, damp outside air — they are not a substitute for proper ventilation. Seal tight, then ventilate right.



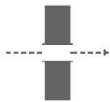
HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Gaps around skirting boards, some recessed ceiling lights, exhaust fan openings, pet doors, old fireplaces, electrical outlets, attic hatches, keyholes and gaps under doors are among the most common entry points for cold air.



LEAK DETECTION

To find air leaks, light a candle or stick of incense and walk around the edges of your rooms on a windy day. If the smoke wavers or blows sideways near a skirting board or window frame, you've found a draught that needs sealing.



SHUT THE WINDOW

The sum of all the air leaks in a typical NZ home can add up to as much air loss as leaving a window wide open. Good draught stripping means you can effectively shut this window.



OLDER HOMES MORE PRONE

Many pre-1970s homes were built without any consideration for airtightness, with timber framing that has since shrunk and settled, leaving gaps throughout the building envelope.



CROSS-VENTILATION EFFECT

Having draughts at opposite ends of the home creates a pressure path, allowing air to flow through the home as cross-ventilation. This tunnel effect makes the combined draught much stronger than individual gaps alone.



ADDS VALUE TO INSULATION

Even though insulation slows conductive heat loss, air leakage can still bypass insulation entirely. Addressing both together gives far better results than either approach alone.

This factsheet is provided by Warmer Homes.

We hope that by reading our factsheets you will learn some useful ways to make your home warmer, drier and more comfortable to live in. Learn more at warmerhomes.nz