

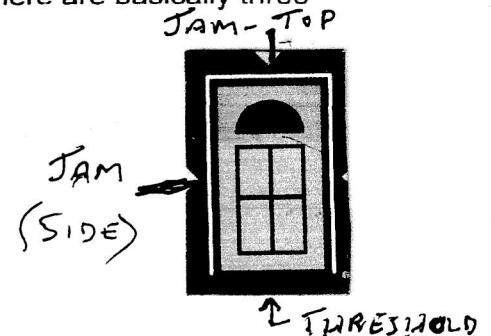
DIY - Doors

Drafty doors are inevitable in an older home. Weather stripping fails. Doors shrink and crack. Problems with the threshold develop. They are also one of the easiest things for a homeowner to fix. DIY fixes help with air sealing. Increasing the insulation of a door (increasing the R value) is more difficult.

Weatherstripping the sides and top

Weatherstripping is a confusing topic. There are many different types of weatherstripping for the sides and top of the door jam. But for doors there are basically three choices. They are all available at your local hardware store. :

- The exterior doors of homes built after 1980 have a slot in the door jam (also called a kerf). A Weatherstripping gasket to seal the door fits into this slot by friction (no adhesive). Over time the factory installed weatherstripping becomes brittle and ineffective. It is a straightforward process to remove the old weatherstripping and install the new one.



- For older doors without the slotted door jam, there is a "Surface mounted, screw on" option available. Here you screw into the door jam a metal or plastic strip with the weatherstripping attached.
- A more economic option is to attach a strip of felt onto either the door stop (where the door meets the jam). or the door jam (hinge side of jam) These are stapled/nailed in place or come with self-adhesive.

Door Sweeps for the bottom of doors

- Several types of door sweeps are available. They provide air sealing at the bottom of the door. They can be placed without removing the door.
- The threshold on modern pre-hung doors can be adjusted upward to narrow the gap between the bottom of the door and the threshold
- Wooden thresholds are prone to rot from moisture and may need replacing

Insulating the Door Frame

- The space between the door frame and the house framing may be an inch or more wide. It is a significant site for air leakage. It may or may not have been insulated at the time of home construction.
- This space may be approached in 2 ways. Remove trim and fill space with **low expansion** spray foam. Or, if removing the trim is not an option, caulk both edges where the trim meets the wall and meets the door jam.