

# Keep Your Savings In

## *Caulking Windows and Doors*

### Why Should I Do This?

Properly caulked windows and doors not only reduce air leaks, they also help ensure the efficiency of your home's cooling and heating systems helping you save money and the environment.

### What you'll need:

- High-efficiency caulk.
- Caulking gun.
- Caulking tool or putty knife.
- Wooden stick with rounded edges (or similar item).
- Damp rag.
- Incense Stick.
- Flashlight.

STEP  
1

An incense stick is helpful for finding problem spots in your existing caulking. To locate problems with your existing window caulking, run a lit incense stick near the outside or inside of the window; be careful if using inside the window not to come in contact with drapes or shades. You will notice the smoke pattern change when air flows through faulty caulking.

STEP  
2

Clean off the existing caulk with a damp rag. Remove badly cracked or deteriorated caulk with a putty knife or similar tool.

STEP  
3

Carefully open the caulk tube by cutting the tip at a 45-degree angle with a sharp object and puncture the inner seal with a long nail or wire.

STEP  
4

Properly place the caulk tube in the caulking gun and run a steady bead of caulk across the length of the window or the door frame applying it at a 45-degree angle. Use the wooden stick to smooth out the new caulking and allow it to dry.

**Note:** Caulking comes in many colors to match your woodwork, brick or trim. Some are paintable, some are not.

STEP  
5

An easy way to test the sealing or weather stripping of a door is to shine a flashlight around its edges. Places where you can see the light from the other side are areas that need to be re-sealed or weather stripped.

### ENERGY SAVING TIP



- Little holes in caulking or weather stripping around doors can add up to big energy wasters when you consider the entire home. In fact, these little holes can waste as much cooling or heat as an open window.

### SAFETY TIPS



- Many newer caulking guns have built-in tip cutting devices and puncture wires. If yours does not, please use caution when cutting the tip off and puncturing the seal.
- Wear gloves and safety glasses when doing this work.
- When using an Incense stick, be sure to keep it away from drapes or shades.

