

Turning your
house into
your dream
home

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*Sealing and
insulating
leaky ducts
will save
money and
energy...*

DOING IT RIGHT

With help from D4 Construction

Increase Your Home's Energy Efficiency—Part III

Sealing the ductwork...

A well designed, properly sealed, heating/cooling system will make your home more comfortable and energy efficient.

Here are just a few reasons why looking after this area of your home is a good investment of your time and energy.

Money—

Leaky ducts can reduce the efficiency of your heating/cooling system by as much as 20%. Sealing, and possibly insulating, the ducts will decrease your requirement for more heat, thus saving you money.

Comfort—

When you seal and insulate leaky ducts you'll increase the amount and quality of the heated air being circulated throughout your home. Not only will more air make it to the designated rooms—it will be warmer, as well.

Indoor air quality—

By properly sealing the ductwork you can prevent indoor and outdoor fumes, dust, and insulation particles from entering your ducting system and being blown throughout your house—an important consideration for those suffering with allergies.

You know there's "energy wasting" duct problems when you have any of the following—

- ⇒ High energy bills year around
- ⇒ Rooms that never seem to feel comfortable—either too hot or too cold
- ⇒ Rooms that are hard to heat or cool
- ⇒ Tangled or kinked flexible ducts
- ⇒ Visible ductwork in the garage, attic or crawlspace

Some simple steps to take—

Many of the heating/cooling ducts are hidden from view in walls, ceilings, attics, and basements so repairing them could be difficult or even impossible.

The idea here is to repair any issues that you can find and reach.

Start by looking in your attic, basement, and crawlspace (if you have one) and seal the following:

- ⇒ All joints between the plenum (ducts) and the furnace
- ⇒ All metal ductwork joints
- ⇒ All joints and seams of supply boots
- ⇒ Secure all sides of the duct boot openings to the surface they penetrate

Run your furnace and test all joints and connections—if you feel warm air—seal it and insulate as necessary.

Doing it Right



Silver—or aluminum tape—is a good choice when sealing flat running joints.

What to use—

The following materials can be picked up at any home improvement store:

- ⇒ Duct mastic—this is a pasty material that is used as a glue or cement to create a protective coating for thermal insulation
- ⇒ HVAC-rated aluminum tape—this is *NOT* the traditional ‘duct tape’ which quickly dries up and peels away—but a special heat resistant tape that will stay put even over time
- ⇒ Urethane caulk— this caulking will expand and contract with the ductwork which helps prevent cracks from forming
- ⇒ Silicone caulk—this caulking sticks well to non-porous surfaces and is not prone to cracking with temperature fluctuations

Of all of these—duct mastic is considered the most reliable and requires the least surface preparation—though aluminum tape is the easiest to use on flat running joints.

Sealing duct leaks can be an effective energy conservation measure—but you’ll have to be sure to pay careful attention to detail as even a small leak can lose a significant amount of heat.

A well insulated and air-sealed home will not only save you energy it will give you a more comfortable living environment.

To Your Energy Savings.

Upcoming Topics

- ⇒ Appliance Energy Savings
- ⇒ Cost Effective Lighting
- ⇒ Have a Cleaner, Greener Christmas

For more information:

on how we can assist you with turning your house into your dream home while making it more energy efficient—or if you have any questions—call Mike Spruyt at 572-4812

The D₄ Guarantee



D₁ – Your job will be done for the price specified—there are no surprises or hidden costs.

D₂ – Your job will be completed the way you want it done.

D₃ – If you aren’t satisfied with the finished product we’ll fix it for free.

D₄– All work comes with a 2-year guarantee on workmanship