



Seal Large Air Leaks

Notes for organizers:

- Note that **this month's task is an essential precursor to adding attic insulation.** While many air leaks can be found by doing a visual inspection of a building's exterior, another very important place to look is the attic.

Before adding attic insulation, gaps must be sealed around all points of entry into the attic, including: stairs, whole-house fans, ceiling fans, ceiling light fixtures, bathroom exhaust fans, heating/cooling ducts, pipes, etc. Many people may need a professional to help identify areas that need attention and make recommendations.

Check the US Department of Energy website for a guide to finding air leaks:
http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/insulation_airsealing/index.cfm/mytopic=11250

- Consider displaying various types of caulk, weather stripping and expanding foam. Invite an expert to be on hand during coffee hours to answer questions, make recommendations, and do demonstrations.
- Involve youth by training them to do these tasks, then send out teams (with adult supervision) to assist people in their homes. Consider having these teams practice first on the building(s) under the care of your faith community.
- Point out added benefits to sealing air leaks, besides energy savings: fewer entry points for bugs and rodents, less likelihood of moisture damage, greater comfort especially on windy winter days and nights.