

## Renovate safely

- If you're thinking of venting your attic, wait for cool weather and watch where you're stepping to avoid falling through the ceiling.
- Be sure you or your contractors follow all local building codes, the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, bylaws and permit requirements.
- When working with caulking, make sure you keep your work area and home properly vented, as the fumes can be hazardous to your health.
- When insulating around switches and outlets, be sure to turn off power at the breaker panel.
- When working with insulation, be sure to wear gloves, a facemask, a long-sleeved shirt and eye protection. Small particles of fibreglass can irritate your skin, eyes and lungs.

### For more energy efficiency information

visit [www.HydroOne.com/SaveEnergy](http://www.HydroOne.com/SaveEnergy) and:

The Office of Energy Efficiency of Natural Resources Canada at [www.oeenrcan.gc.ca](http://www.oeenrcan.gc.ca)

The Ontario Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure at [www.mei.gov.on.ca](http://www.mei.gov.on.ca)

## How to reach us

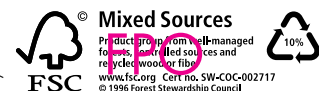
Web: [www.HydroOne.com](http://www.HydroOne.com)

Call: Customer Communications Centre  
(7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET) 1-888-664-9376

Power Outages and Emergencies:  
(24 hours) 1-800-434-1235

Fax: 1-888-625-4401

Mail: Hydro One  
P.O. Box 5700  
Markham, Ontario L3R 1C8



Partners in Powerful Communities



# Home Insulation We can help

## Ways to save

- **No-cost low-cost sealing tips**
- **Invest to improve**
- **Shopping tips**
- **Time-of-Use tips**



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## No-cost low-cost caulking, weatherstripping and insulating tips

If you put together all the cracks and leaks in the average Canadian home, you would end up with a hole in the wall the size of a basketball. Think about that the next time you hear your air conditioner or furnace turn on!

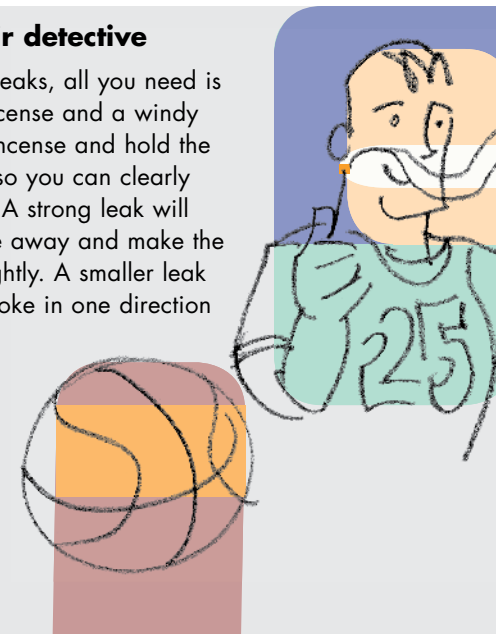
Air leakage represents 25 to 40 per cent of the average heat loss in the winter and cool air loss in the summer, so it's worth your time to seal those leaks to keep your home at a comfortable temperature.

A thorough job of caulking, weatherstripping and insulating can reduce your heating and cooling bills by as much as 25 per cent and make you much more comfortable.

And here's the good news: caulking, weatherstripping and insulating are simple enough for most do-it-yourselfers and don't require a lot of special tools or skills.

### Be a cold air detective

To hunt for air leaks, all you need is two sticks of incense and a windy day. Light the incense and hold the sticks together so you can clearly see the smoke. A strong leak will blow the smoke away and make the sticks glow brightly. A smaller leak will puff the smoke in one direction or draw it in.



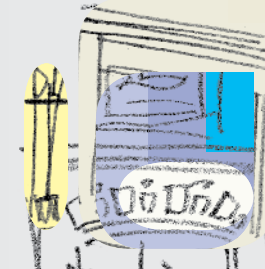
### Where does the air leak in and out?

Air leakage in an average house breaks down like this: 25 per cent basement, 20 per cent exterior electric outlets, 13 per cent windows and 10 per cent vents.



### Is your fireplace damper closed?

Leaving your damper open when a fire isn't burning sucks warm air out of your home. If you don't use your fireplace, consider getting it sealed.



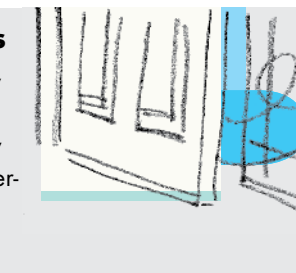
### Plug those outlets

Blocking electrical outlets and switches with the right weatherstripping material is one of the easiest, fastest and most effective jobs you can do. In some homes, 20 per cent of that basketball is found here!



### Slam the door on air leaks

A properly fitted door closes firmly and doesn't allow air to leak in on the sides, top or bottom. For a few dollars you can buy rubber weatherstripping to skirt the door frame.



### More details and tips

More details and additional no-cost low-cost tips are available at [www.HydroOne.com/SaveEnergy](http://www.HydroOne.com/SaveEnergy)



## Invest to improve

Investing in your home to save energy will pay off for years to come. For some of these projects, you'll likely need a contractor, so be sure to get a number of quotes and check references. Also visit Natural Resources Canada's website at [www.oeec.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.oeec.nrcan.gc.ca) for information on incentives from the ecoENERGY Retrofit program.

### 1 Look at your home's thermal envelope for energy savings

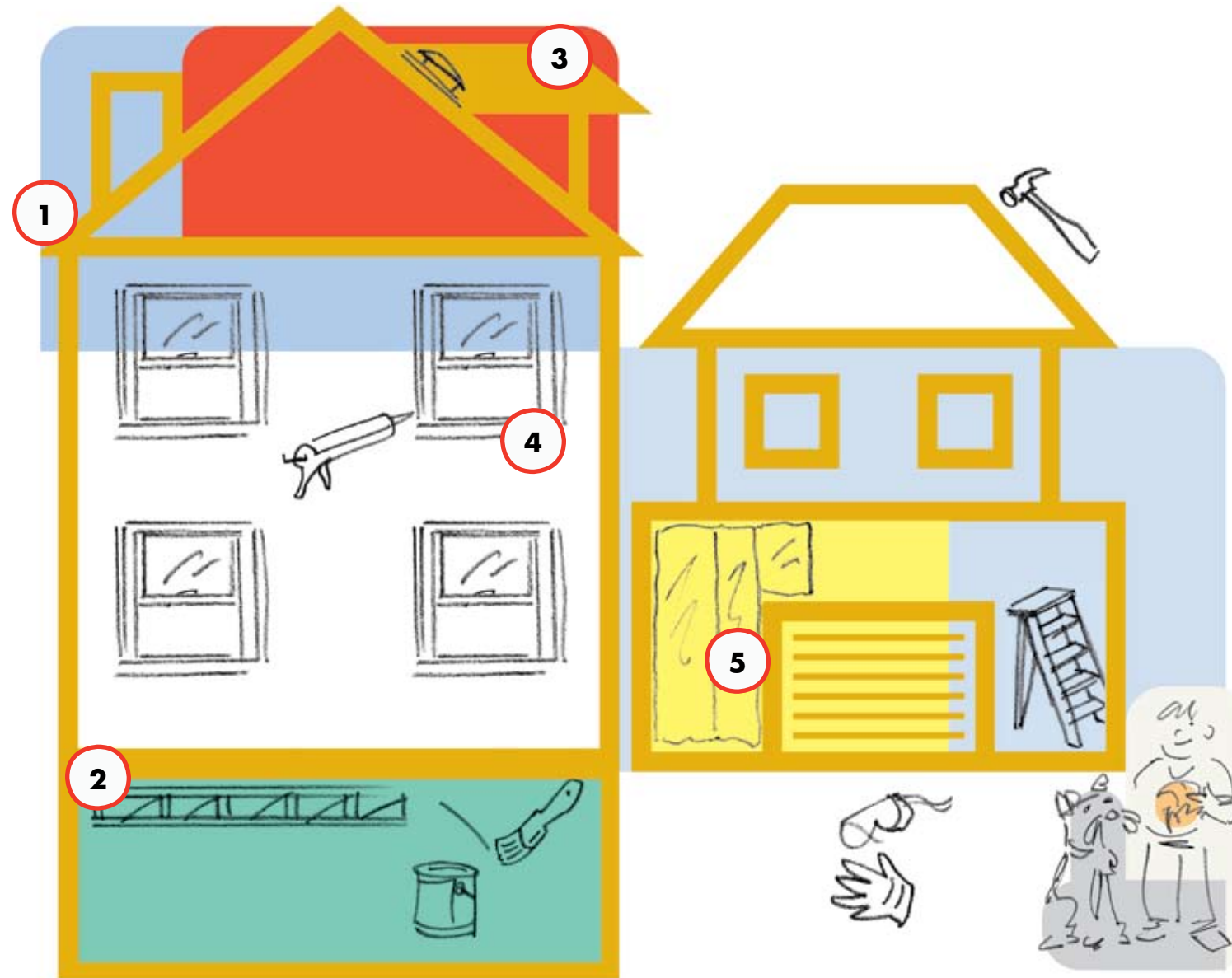
A thorough caulking, weatherstripping and insulation job can reduce your cooling and heating bill significantly and provide a much more comfortable home. Replacing single-pane windows and uninsulated doors with more energy-efficient models makes a big difference as well.

### 2 The basement may be the problem

The sill plate where the foundation wall meets your home's frame is a large source of cold air leaks. Fill the gaps with butyl rubber caulking or an acoustical sealant. If the joists rest on the wooden sill, caulk around the joists, too.

### 3 Is your attic overheating?

Consider adding attic ventilation to let air circulate and heat escape. Also be sure you have adequate insulation. A qualified contractor can ensure proper placement and sizes of vents, and determine your insulation needs. Wait for a cool day before you inspect your attic, and be sure to watch your step.



### 4 A clear look at your windows

Check for rot, mould, glass condition, putty and paint. If they are beyond repair, consider replacing them with high efficiency windows. If they are in good shape, start by checking the trim. If you can easily remove it, stuff insulation between the window and your home's frame. If it doesn't come off easily, caulk around it.

### 5 Between you and comfort

Insulating your walls is most easily done when completely renovating the interior of your home. Once you have the drywall or plaster off the walls, you can go to work laying insulation between the wall studs and joists. Insulation can also be blown beneath siding or into holes drilled into your home.

## Shopping Tips:

### Read the labels carefully

There are several types of caulking, each with its own characteristics. Take time to read the labels, because often they're not interchangeable. Be sure you choose the right caulking for the job!

### When you buy caulking, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Is it for use indoors, outdoors or both, what colour is it, is it paintable, what surfaces will it adhere to, what size gap will it seal, what is the temperature for application, what preparation is required, how long will it last, and how much does it cost?
- It's also important that you provide adequate ventilation for the caulking to cure and also to clear the air of odours and fumes.
- Although caulking is a relatively easy job to do, you don't want to do it too often, so it pays to buy caulking that will last. Today, many types of caulking will last 20 years or more. Check the label for the lifetime.



### Time-of-Use Tips

Using the tips in this brochure will help you reduce your energy use and save you money 24 hours a day. You may notice the biggest difference during peak times when electricity is more expensive.

In general, a thorough caulking job gives the biggest pay-back for lowering the basic energy requirements of a home. This pays measurable dividends during on-peak hours.