

# **ENERGY SAVING & WEATHERPROOFING**

## **TIP KB335: Interior air leaks**

Air leaks are the major contributor to wasted energy. In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy has found that homeowners can save up to 10% or more on heating and cooling bills by reducing these troublesome air leaks.

These air leaks occur in all seasons. Cold weather may prohibit exterior energy saving jobs, but interior jobs can be accomplished easily, any time of the year.

Caulking is the easiest way to stop these pesky leaks dead in their tracks. Even better news is that it is an easy and inexpensive DIY project, yet gives you a fast return on your money with all the cost that it'll shave off your energy bills!

### **.: GETTING STARTED**

Begin searching for meddlesome air leaks by doing a walk-through of your home. Inspect all interior walls in places such as, wall to ceiling joints, wall to floor joints, wall to wall joints, light fixtures, electrical outlets, window and door frames to interior walls, attic doors and ceilings, and plumbing penetrations. In addition, check around your heating and cooling system to make sure your ductwork is properly sealed to the furnace or air conditioner. Even gaps and cracks in closets can be a source of energy loss.

Once you have detected where leaks occur, you must choose the best product for the application. For most indoor wall projects, Polyseamseal® Acrylic Caulk with Silicone or Polyseamseal® All-Purpose Adhesive Caulk are ideal choices. For heating and cooling, try Polyseamseal® Red High Temp Silicone or Polyseamseal® 100% Silicone Sealant.

### **.: APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

- 1** Preparation is the key to a successful caulking job. All areas to be caulked must be clean and dry and free of all loose caulk, paint, dirt & dust. Having a clean surface will allow a strong bond to form between the caulk the surfaces to be caulked.
- 2** Cut the tip of the nozzle at a 45° angle to the desired bead size. (Note: Some caulking cartridges may require that the inner seal be broken before using.)
- 3** Place caulking cartridge in caulk gun, locking in plunger.
- 4** Squeeze the trigger firmly applying steady pressure to get a smooth consistent bead as you move the tip of the nozzle along the joint to be sealed. Press the caulk into the surface making sure the caulk touches all joint surfaces. This will give you a stronger bond.
- 5** When finished caulking the joint, release the plunger to stop any after flow.
- 6** Clean any excess caulk before it dries. Use soap & water for cleaning latex caulks and mineral spirits when using solvent based caulks & sealants. Be sure to follow solvent manufacturer's safety precautions and instructions.
- 7** Seal unused portion of the cartridge.