Air Seal Top Plates in Attic

Job Aid for Air Seal Attic Floor Badge

Aligns with Standard Work Specifications 3.0101.1, 3.0102.11

BEFORE



AFTER



SEAL TOP PLATES Seal perimeter at all gaps and extend sealant up onto adjacent materials.



CAULK
Apply caulk to areas with gap 1/4 inch or smaller. Note that a variety of caulks are available and the material should be rated for the task (e.g., high-temperature rated if in contact or close proximity to a heat source).



SPRAY FOAM MASTIC
Apply spray foam to gaps larger than 1/4 inch and up to 2 inches wide.

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CHECKLIST

Air seal attic floor

DESIRED OUTCOME

Holes, penetrations, chases, cracks, gaps, and joints sealed to prevent air leakage and moisture movement between the attic and conditioned space.[1]

Job Site Requirements[2]

- [ ] Existing insulation was removed as needed to access air sealing locations.
- [ ] All wall cavities are enclosed on all sides (e.g., have top and bottom plates). Additional blocking was installed where necessary.
- [ ] The following cracks, penetrations, and chases are sealed according to the work order to prevent air movement with the appropriate materials based on hole sizes according to the MATERIALS GUIDELINES table at right:
  - [ ] Top plates of all walls
  - [ ] Tongue and groove ceilings
  - [ ] Chases
  - [ ] Dropped soffits
  - [ ] Recessed lights
  - [ ] Plumbing vent pipes
  - [ ] Electrical penetrations
  - [ ] Exhaust fans
  - [ ] Dropped ceilings
  - [ ] Stairwells
  - [ ] Chimney/flue
  - [ ] Ductwork penetrations into attic
  - [ ] Any other holes/penetrations in the attic plane/boundary

AIR SEALING MATERIALS GUIDELINES	
HOLE/GAP SIZE	MATERIALS/NOTES
1/4” or less (small)	Caulk
1/4” to 2” (medium)	One component foam or mastic
2”–3” (large)	Two-component foam
3” or larger (extra-large)	Infill material installed that will not bend, sag, or move Support material (e.g., 2X4) installed for spans wider than 24”

- [ ] Work area cleaned.

1. Relevant Standards: 3.0101.1, 3.0102.11

2. High-temp areas and attic hatches are addressed in separate badges.

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For more information, visit: energy.gov/eere/wap

DOE/EE-2591 • May 2022