

The safe modern draft hunt

Pick a cold, windy day. The bigger the difference between inside and outside, the easier drafts are to feel.

- 1 Turn off anything that blows air around: ceiling fans, the bathroom fan, the kitchen hood.
- 2 Wet the back of your hand. A damp hand feels a draft that a dry hand misses.
- 3 Or tape a strip of tissue paper or a thin ribbon to a pencil. Hold it still near each spot. If it flutters, you've found air moving.
- 4 Go slowly around every window frame, every door, both sides of the door at the hinge and the latch, and along the bottom of the door.
- 5 Check the places folks forget: electrical outlets and switch plates on outside walls, where pipes and wires come through the wall under the sink, the attic hatch or pull-down stairs, the mail slot, a window air conditioner left in for winter, and the dryer vent.
- 6 Look at the bottom of outside doors in the daytime with the lights off inside. If you can see daylight, wind can come through.
- 7 Write every spot down on the “My House” page at the back of this book. Mark the bad ones with a star.

NEVER USE A FLAME TO FIND DRAFTS

No candles, no lighters, no matches, no lamps. A strip of tissue or a damp hand finds the same drafts without any fire near the curtains.

What to look for while you're at it

While you're on your knees by the outlets, take a look around:

- Cracked or missing caulk around window and door frames.
- Weatherstripping on doors that's flattened, torn or gone.
- A door that doesn't close snug, or a gap you can see at the corners.
- Windows that rattle when the wind blows. A rattle means air is moving.
- Frost or ice on the inside of a window frame. That's warm, damp air meeting a cold spot.