

Stop Your Money From Leaking Away

Sealing Holes or Tears in Attic Duct

Why Should I Do This?

One way to save money and improve the efficiency of your air conditioning or heating system is by sealing holes or tears in your air ducts in your attic or crawl space. And remember, saving energy not only saves you money, it helps save the environment as well.

What you'll need:

- UL 181 approved mastic sealant (UL 181 rating is on the product label).
- Mesh mastic tape for larger holes or cracks.
- Inexpensive paintbrush to apply mastic.
- UL 181 approved metal or plastic tape.
- A little hand squeegee can help with replacing old duct taping that has failed.
- An old dusting rag can help with dust in air conditioning and heating ducts.
- Safety glasses.
- Work gloves.
- Flashlight.
- Long sleeve shirt.
- Dust mask.

STEP 1

Examine duct work for obvious signs of damage.

STEP 2

Once you have isolated a hole or a tear in your duct work, dust and clean the area around the tear or hole to ensure the tape or mastic will stick firmly.

Note: Seams and cracks in rigid duct should be sealed with mastic. Openings wider than 1/8" should be sealed with mesh tape covered with mastic. Flex duct fittings can be sealed with mastic where they are fastened to the duct work. Tears in flex duct inner and outer liners can be sealed with approved tape. Badly damaged flex duct work should be replaced.

STEP 3

Using a small piece of tape, hold the hole together. Make sure that the tape is large enough to keep air from flowing out of the hole. Seal around the hole with additional pieces of tape making sure that each piece is firmly in place and secure.

If you have found an area of rigid duct work where old tape has become loose or dislodged, remove the old tape, clean off the surrounding area and apply mastic to cover the seam. If there is a gap, apply the mesh tape over a thin layer of mastic then cover it with more mastic to form a good, strong seal.

Holes or defects in fiberglass duct board or foil-backed duct insulation can be repaired with approved metal tape.

ENERGY SAVING TIP



- Little holes and tears in your duct work not only reduce the efficiency of your heating and air conditioning system, they also contribute to a dusty home; in addition, leakage from supply ducts is air you have paid to condition that never gets delivered to the living space - wasted money and wasted energy.

SAFETY TIPS



- An attic can be a very dangerous part of your home, if you are not comfortable working in an attic in any way, you should seek the services of a licensed and insured professional.
- Be sure to use caution if you work in an attic in the summer as temperatures in attics in the south can be extremely dangerous.
- It's important to wear safety glasses, gloves, a long sleeve shirt and a dust mask while working in an attic to protect you from airborne insulation particles.
- Always be sure to wear proper footwear and chose your steps carefully when working in an attic, slipping off a board or joist could result in injury and or damage to your ceiling.



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