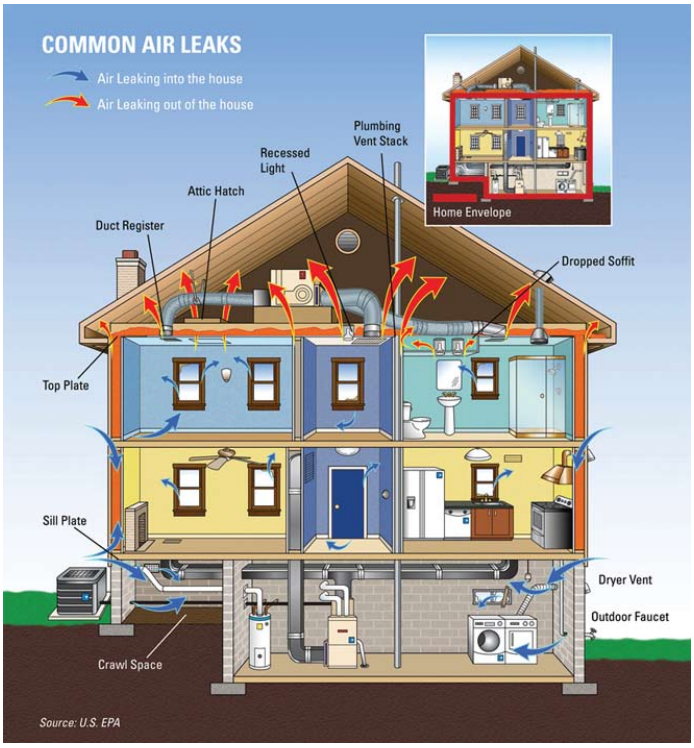
Running a Blower Door Test

Shades of Green
Tool Bench

Did You Know?

An air leak can result in 25 percent heat loss in a newly constructed home and even higher...approximately 40 percent…in older buildings. Worse yet, when a leak does exist, the air that is moving through the house can cause moisture condensation problems, which ultimately increases the chances of mold and structural decay.

Since air leaks can have such a major impact on energy performance, it's a good idea to conduct a blower-door test after a house has been sealed. This way, you have an accurate measurement of a home's air tightness.



Source: www.epa..gov

Before You Get Started

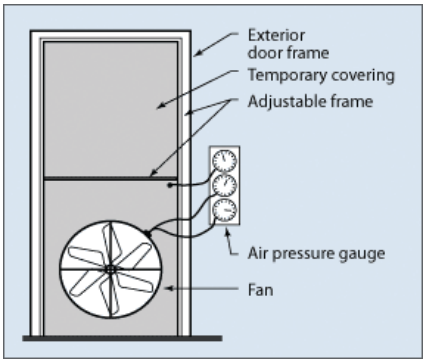
The process of running a blower boor test is straightforward however, in order to accurately interpret the blower door test results, you will need a RESNET certified Home Energy Rater.
You can find a certified rater in your state by going to the RESNET Rater Directory.

Certified Home Energy Rater - An individual who is certified by an accredited home energy Rating Provider to inspect and test a home in order to evaluate the minimum rated features established by RESNET and prepare a home energy rating according to Chapters One and Three of the RESNET Mortgage Industry National Home Energy Rating Standards.

How to Conduct a Blower Door Test

A blower door is a "calibrated" fan that temporarily mounts into the frame of an exterior door. The fan pulls the air out of the house, then decompressurizes the house structure so that air leaks can be detected (by hand or with a smoke pencil).

To see a step-by-step video demonstration on how to conduct a blower door test, go to:
www.ehow.com/video_4420497_benefits-blower-door-test.html



www.energysavers.gov

A Few Tips

- Adjust the calibrated fan to maintain a constant pressure. Blower door tests are typically performed at a pressure difference of 50 Pa.
- Always follow instructions provided by the blower door manufacturer.
- Take appropriate precautions before you start your test:
  - Open interior doors and close all windows.
  - Turn down heater and water heater thermostats.
  - Use damp newspapers to cover up ashes in wood stoves and/or fireplaces.
  - Shut fireplace doors/dampers and wood stove air intakes.

Link and Learn

To find out more about blower door testing techniques, visit these online resources:

www.energysavers.gov/your_home/energy_audits/index.cfm/mytopic=11190

www.energyconservatory.org/applications/applications3.htm