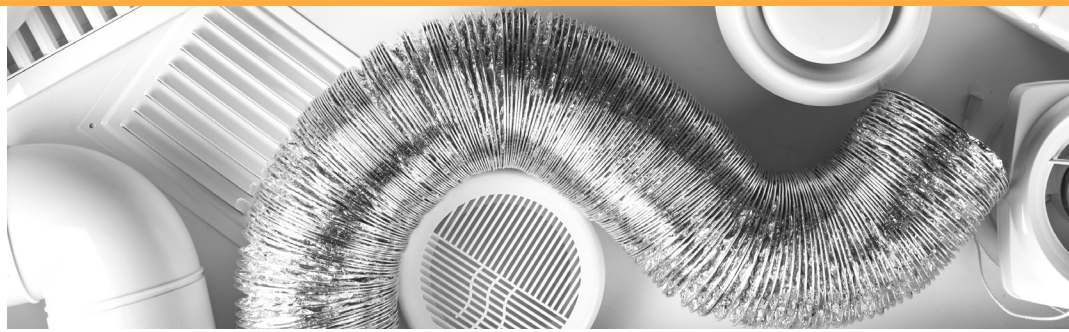




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Duct Sealing Overview

In houses with forced-air heating and cooling systems, ducts are used to distribute conditioned air throughout the house. In a typical house, however, approximately 20 to 30 percent of the air that moves through the duct system is lost due to leaks, holes, and poorly connected ducts. This can result in higher utility bills, higher energy use, and difficulty controlling the temperature within your home.

Here are indicators that your ducts may be performing poorly:

- your utility bills are high in summer and winter
- you have rooms that are difficult to heat and cool
- you have stuffy rooms that never seem to feel comfortable
- your ducts are located in an attic, crawlspace, or the garage
- you find tangled or kinked flexible ducts in your system



Ensuring that your duct system is properly sealed can help eliminate and reduce these issues.

Often ducts are concealed in walls, ceiling, attics, and basements so maintenance and repair can be difficult. But there are things that can be done to improve the duct performance in your home. Start by sealing air leaks using mastic sealant or metal tape and insulating all the ducts that you can access (such as those in attics, crawlspaces, unfinished basements, and garages). Also, make sure that the connections at vents and registers are well-sealed where they meet the floors, walls, and ceiling. These are common locations to find leaks and disconnected ductwork.

Although duct maintenance and repair can be a do-it-yourself project, many homeowners choose to work with a professional contractor that specializes in heating and cooling equipment.



Benefits of Properly Sealing and Insulating Your Duct System:

- **Improved Comfort:** sealing and insulating ducts can help you control temperatures throughout your home
- **Energy Saving:** leaky ducts can reduce heating and cooling efficiency by as much as 20%
- **Air Quality:** sealing ducts can help improve the indoor air quality by reducing the risks of pollutants entering ducts and circulating through your home
- **Improved Safety:** leaky ductwork in your heating and cooling system may cause backdrafting, where combustion gases are drawn back into your living spaces.
- **Less Pollution:** the less energy you use in your home, the less air pollution is produced.

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