

How to Install Weather Stripping



Sometimes older homes feel like they're made of swiss cheese. Insects, rodents, and drafts seem to always find a way inside our 100 year old cape cod rental house here in the Burgh. Unfortunately for us, and our new awesome tenant, it appears that ants are reclaiming the lot where our house resides.

Even though we've had the pest control company apply their ant treatment the little buggers are persistent. And apparently they like sneaking into the kitchen through the side entry door, like some 18 year kid coming back from a late night party.

One way to boost your home's efficiency is to add weather stripping to outside doors. I've done this to several of our rentals. It cures insect problems, reduces cooling & heating bills, and costs less than \$50 if you already have a few basic tools.

Here's the supply list:

- Wood and vinyl clad door set (\$22)
- 4d finish nails (\$4)
- Caulk (\$4)
- Hammer (\$9)
- Miter saw (\$10) or Jigsaw (\$29-\$99)
- Coping saw (\$10)
- Miter box (\$15)
- Combination square (\$10)
- Scissors (\$5)

So, if you're looking to rescue your house from mother nature this project's a proven winner.

Standard packets of weather stripping for doors have three sections that cover the right, left, and top of portion of your door frame.

Ants were entering our door at the lower right hand side. Just the tiniest gap was all it took for them to infiltrate the kitchen behind the door.



Like me, you'll need to measure the top portion of your door frame from left to right. and hang the corresponding piece of weather striping.



In case I forget, here's a **DIY Bonus Tip #1**: before you cut weather striping pull back the foam seal from the wood frame.



Once the wood portion of the weather stripping is cut to size push the foam seal back into place and cut any excess with scissors. This will ensure a smooth look instead of a jagged appearance that occurs from wood saws.



Tack the top weather strip in place with 4d finish nails. Make this process easier by pre-drilling holes every 6 to 8 inches along the strip. Ensure your drilled holes are slightly smaller in diameter than the finish nails.



Dry fit the strip to see if it fits then add some caulk to the side that will meet up with the door frame.



Push the weather strip against **your closed door** so that the vinyl seal smushes against it creating a tight fit. Then proceed with tacking the strip in place with the 4d nails and your hammer. You can have a spouse or friend hold the strip while you hammer away. But don't be afraid to do it by yourself, hey, I did and it wasn't bad at all.



TACK THE WEATHER STRIP TO YOUR DOOR FRAME WITH A HAMMER AND FINISH NAILS

Now the tricky part. You'll need to trace the profile of the top weather strip on the right and left jamb sections. Rest a scrap piece of weather stripping flush with the jamb sections. Use a pencil to trace the profile like I did in the picture below.



TRACE THE TOP WEATHER STRIP'S PROFILE ONTO THE JAMB SECTIONS

Use a jigsaw or coping saw to cut this profile into the jamb weather stripping.

This will allow the right and left sections of weather stripping to sit perfectly against the top strip.

Copy and paste the link below to watch my video for the complete step-by-step process and you'll see for yourself how easy it is. I think even my kids could do this with some supervision-LOL.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBMJvC9TZ3A&feature=share&list=UUP2vaEzS8MvZrFklwBtW1GA>

To install the left and right sections of weather stripping, measure from the bottom of the top weather strip to the door threshold. Remember this distance. Take your measuring tape, attach it to the top of the profiled weather strip for the right or left jamb, and pull it to the distance your need.

Cut your jamb weather strips to size and check that they fit. Then drill holes for your finish nails, caulk the back of the weather strips, and push them flush with your door. Tack both of these weather strips in place like you did for the top one. Go back and caulk any gaps between the stripping and door frame. I used Alex Plus Caulk by Dap because it's paintable and will allow me to make the weather strips look like part of the door frame after they get painted.

Booyah!!



Say goodbye to drafts, ant parades, rain water leaks and ungodly utility bills.

I hope this tutorial helps you with your own weatherizing project. Got a question?
Send your Q to jeff@homerepairtutor.com. I aim to serve :)

Jeff