

\$20 in Materials or a New Door?  
by Justin Byelich

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How quickly the seasons change when the weather abruptly moves in. We go from planning weekend barbeques to waking up one morning and wishing we had barbequed yesterday, not to mention the house maintenance to-do's that didn't get crossed off the list when the weather was friendlier. Here is a quick tip on doors.

Doors and windows become drafty due in part to sealants breaking down and old weather stripping. Check the sealant on the interior and exterior along the wall around the trim and at the frame, hairline cracks are not a large concern. If the void is more than one half inch install a foam backer rod prior to resealing.

Inspect a door's weather stripping when dark outside by turning on an exterior light and turning off the interior lights. With the door closed look around all four sides of the door from inside- where there is light, there is a draft. The sides and top can be sealed by adding or replacing the weather stripping, or adding a thin piece of rope behind the weather strip to hold it closer to the door when closed. The bottom of the door should have a slight drag. If it has too much or not enough adjust the screws on top of the threshold, this is the plate that is stepped over when using the door.

*Keep in mind that exterior sealants need to be 100% silicone or a caulk that says "interior/exterior", "permanently flexible" and "paintable". Some 100% silicones are paintable.*

Don't forget to install a clean air filter in the furnace.

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