

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Cutting Cooling Costs With Silicone Caulk

(NAPSA)—Warm seasons can be the perfect time to start home-sealing projects that keep the air conditioning in, the heat out and energy costs down.

Gaps and cracks around windows and doors let air conditioning escape, accounting for 25 to 40 percent of the energy used to cool a home, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Choosing the right caulk to seal a home is important, and following the lead of professionals can help. According to a recent survey, four out of five professional contractors use silicone caulk when sealing their homes. Silicone caulks, such as GE Silicone II, provide an exceptional watertight and airtight seal, maximizing comfort and energy savings.

“Contractors know that a silicone seal is the best long-term seal against water and air,” said Carey Evans, designer from the HGTV show “My First Place.” “Silicone won’t shrink, crack or peel. Nobody wants to do the same job twice, and with silicone caulk you won’t have to.”

Because silicone is not water based, there is minimal shrinking or cracking when it cures. Shrinkage of GE Silicone II, for example, is less than 5 percent. Acrylic caulk is water based and some acrylics shrink up to 25 percent. That shrinkage leaves cracks and gaps for air and water to move through.

Sealing a home is an easy way to reduce your energy bills by up to 20 percent. Follow these easy steps:



Silicone caulk can help keep hot air out and cool air in, reducing cooling costs.

1. Make sure the surface is clean, dry and free of soap, grease, dirt and dust.
2. For a straight edge, use masking tape on each side of the joint; remove immediately after applying the caulk.
3. Remove the cap. Cut the nozzle to the desired bead size.
4. Pierce the inner seal with a stiff wire.
5. Insert the cartridge into a caulk gun.
6. Push the caulk out of the tube.
7. Smooth or tool the bead as necessary.
8. To store, reseal the cap.
9. If painting, use GE Silicone II XST Paintable Caulk or GE Infinity.
10. Use mineral spirits to clean up silicone caulk.

For more information on home sealing, visit www.gehome sealing.com.