



Home Weatherization FAQs

LESSON OBJECTIVE: Use this guide to help shoppers protect their properties from winter weather.

HOW TO USE: The lesson includes a PDF which you can use similar to the way you would use a PowerPoint presentation. The trainer's notes will offer notes for each slide, but you may elaborate on each as much as you wish. These are only a few of the questions customers might ask as they look for the products they need to weatherize their homes for the winter.

LENGTH: Approximately 5 minutes for the PDF. Use the Additional Discussion section to spend more time on this topic.

Slide 1 - Introduction

During the fall and early winter, customers may be coming into the store looking for ways to weatherize their homes. It's a good idea to review the different products in the home weatherization category and review some of the questions they might frequently ask.

Slide 2 - Where are the common areas I need to caulk?

You should caulk any place where there is a gap or crack in the side of the house that could let cold air inside. Some of the common places include around window frames, both on the inside and outside. Look around stack penetrations in the roof or foundation. These include the vent for the furnace and stack for the sewer. Also look around vents, such as from the dryer, bathroom and kitchen.

Slide 3 - Is there a certain way to apply caulk?

For best results, use a caulk gun to push, not pull, the gun along the gap. Pushing the gun will drive the caulking down into the gap and give you better adhesion. After you lay down a bead of caulk, you may want to tool the joint. This means using your finger to smooth out the joint while pressing the caulk down into the joint. Wipe away excess with a rag.

Slide 4 - What types of weatherstripping should I use for a window?

There are two types of weatherstripping you can use for a window: v-type (or v-channel) and foam tape. The v-type weatherstripping is best for sealing the moving parts, or the sides, of the window. Use the foam tape for sealing the top and bottom of the window. If you're sealing a casement window, use only foam tape. To finish the project, you'll also need a tape measure, utility knife, finish nails and a hammer.

Slide 5 - When should I use expanding foam sealant?

If a gap is larger than ¼-inch, consider using expanding foam sealant. It's typically used for irregular gaps around the home, such as plumbing feed-thrus and vents. Be careful where you use it, especially if you're using it around windows. The foam can expand so much it bows the side of the window and prevents it from opening. Only fill gaps about 33 percent, as it will expand to fill the rest of the area. If you need to fill additional space, add another layer after the first layer dries. After the insulation cures, it can be trimmed, sanded and painted.

Slide 6 - How do I keep pipes from freezing?

There are a few products you can use to prevent frozen pipes in the winter. First, make sure you've sealed the holes and cracks around the home to prevent cold air from blowing in. Make sure you've covered the outdoor faucet with an outdoor faucet cover. Use pipe wrap for insulating water pipes. This will help prevent them from freezing and also control heat loss for pipes carrying hot water. As an alternative to pipe wrap, you can also use tube pipe insulation.

Slide 7 - What R-value of insulation should I use?

The Department of Energy recommends R-values based on the type of fuel you use and where you live. Attics in homes heated by gas or oil in most southern locations should use R-19. If a home in the same area uses electric heat, use R-30. The minimum recommendation for homes in the coldest climates, regardless of heating method, is R-49.

Slide 8 - Closing Comments

These are a few of the questions customers might ask as they're searching for the correct weatherizing products for their homes. Be familiar with the specific product your store carries as you prepare to help them.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- What are the add-on sales you might sell along with most weatherization products?
- Are there any other questions that customers frequently ask that should be added to this list?