



How To Install Electrical Outlet and Switch Plate Sealers

This instructional video has been produced by your WeatherizationPRO Dealer Network members. It is to show our homeowner clients how to install commercial grade electric outlet and switch plate sealers in their homes.

Outside air enters your home through the rim joists and sill plates at the top of your foundation walls and moves up through the side walls of your home and into and through your attic. As the air moves up through the walls, air is drawn through the electrical outlets and lighting switch plates by a phenomenon called “stack effect”.

With significant amounts of your conditioned air leaking from your home through your walls, you are also wasting your hard earned energy dollars.

By installing commercial grade air sealers inside your electrical outlet plates and lighting switch plates, you can significantly reduce your air and energy leakage.

We recommend always having your WeatherizationPRO Home Performance Professional first measure to determine the actual amount of air leakage home using a, blower door, and infrared camera and/or air leakage detector (or smoke pencil). You should be present during the blower door assessment, so you can see where, and how much, your electrical outlets and switch plates are leaking air and energy.

This instructional video will show you how to air seal your electrical outlets and lighting switch plates.

Please consult with your local WeatherizationPRO Dealer or Home Performance contractor if you need help in determining what type of electrical outlet and switch plate air sealers you should use for your home.

The tools and materials you will need are:

- **Commercial-Grade Electrical Outlet and Lighting Switch Plate Air Sealers**
 - **Child-Proof Outlet Protectors**
 - **Small Blade Standard Flat Screw-Driver**
 - **Paper Type Dust Mask Respirator and Safety Glasses or Goggles**
 - **Several pairs of disposable nitrile gloves- the tight fitting blue colored gloves**
 - **Low Odor LATEX - White or Clear Caulk**
 - **Utility Knife**
 - **Several damp cleaning rags**
1. As you begin your air sealing project, you should take all normal necessary safety precautions and use good safety practices. You should always wear a respirator or dust mask, safety glasses or goggles, old clothes, and nitrile gloves as you are installing electrical outlet and switch plates air sealers.
 2. It is best if the area of the house in which you are working and using caulk is well ventilated.
 3. Before you begin installing your electrical and switch plate air sealing materials, you should clean the dust and dirt from all surfaces of the wall around the plates with a damp cleaning rag, and dry the surfaces with a drying rag or towel. You may need to use a utility knife to cut old paint and/or caulk from around the existing outlet and switch plates.
 4. Electrical outlet and lighting switch plate air sealers are relatively easy to install.
 5. Remove the electrical outlet or lighting switch plate using a small standard flat blade Screw driver.
 6. Remove a sealer pad from the package. After putting an one eighth inch (1/8") bead of caulk on the "wall side" of the sealer pad, place it over the electrical outlet or switch plate. On electrical outlet sealers, - leave the "punch-outs" attached to the sealers, so as

to block the plug entrance to the outlet.

7. Run a second small 1/8 inch bead of low odor caulk around the outside edge of the plate cover and place the cover back into place over the sealer pad. Screw the plate back into normal position over the outlet or switch.
8. Install a Child-Proof Electrical Outlet protector, pushing the “plugs” of the protector through the sealer pad “punch-out”, so as to completely seal the outlet plug entry, as well as protect small children from electrical shocks.
9. Wipe any excess caulk from around the edge of the plate with a damp rag.
10. Continue this process until all the accessible electrical outlets and lighting switch plates have been properly sealed.
11. When your electrical outlet and lighting switch plate air sealing project is complete and you have inspected your own work, you may dispose of the nitrile gloves and rags in your normal plastic garbage bags and containers.
12. After completion of your project, be sure and clean the entire work site, and call your WeatherizationPRO Home Performance Dealer to come back and re-test for air Leakage with their blower door and other Home Performance diagnostic equipment.
13. This electrical outlet and lighting switch plate project is typically a one-time project, and you should be able to feel the difference in comfort in your home for many years to come.

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For more information, or to purchase your commercial grade electrical outlet and

lighting switch plate air sealing pads, contact your local WeatherizationPRO Dealer /

Contractor or call our national WeatherizationPRO headquarters in Denver, Colorado at

303-978-1500. You may also return to the home pages of our WeatherizationPRO.com

website and contact us electronically.