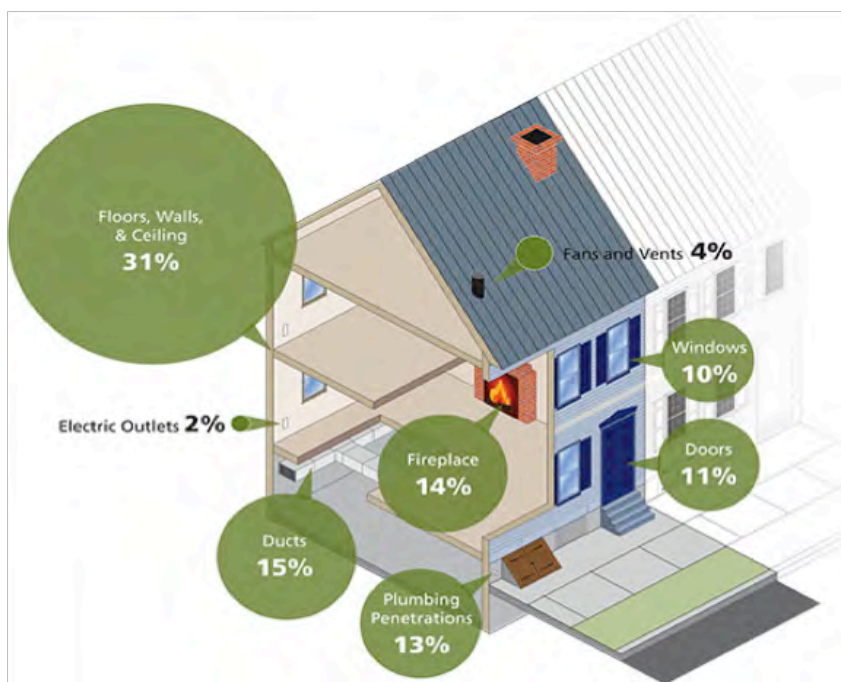

What is airtight construction?

The basic idea of an airtight building is that it has a continuous airtight envelope to control air leaking out of your home. This is especially important in cooler weather, as you don't want to lose the warm air that you have paid to heat!



Percentage of air leakage through a typical building

Why does Airtightness Matter?

An airtight building doesn't lose heat through gaps or allow incoming draughts. This means that your heating system will work more efficiently and you'll be more comfortable in your home. You'll also save money on your fuel bills.

How is Airtightness Achieved?

Airtightness means cutting out unwanted air leakage. While some leaks can be so slight as to be imperceptible, even slight draughts will increase heat loss and reduce comfort levels, sometimes dramatically. Airtightness requires attention to detail for new build situations. For retrofitting it is more challenging to achieve airtightness but it is possible through the application of particular approaches and systems.

What can your designer and builder do to achieve airtightness?

There are fundamental tasks your designer and builder should be doing to achieve air tightness. Beware of any builder who claims this doesn't matter – because it does!

Make sure your builder recognises that any worker who has a role in working on your building, i.e. bricklayers, carpenters, plasterers, plumbers, electricians, glaziers, painters and decorators, floor and carpet layers, and all other trades have a responsibility to ensure airtightness is not compromised.