

# Weatherstripping helps keep the heat in

## Types of Weatherstripping Used for Windows, Doors and Attic Hatches











Weatherstripping is the way for homeowners to reduce heat loss at the movable joints of doors, windows and attic hatches. When properly applied, weatherstripping makes these joints airtight but does not prevent the unit from being easily opened or closed.

Good weatherstripping material should provide a long-lasting and effective seal. Materials and methods of installation vary between different types of doors, windows and attic hatches. When installing the weatherstripping, be careful not to attach it so firmly that the material is distorted. Laying a thin bead of sealant before installing the carrier is often useful. Naturally, rotten surfaces should be repaired before installing weatherstripping. Careful installation will achieve an airtight seal without requiring excessive closing force.

A wide variety of materials are available, some of which are more effective and durable than others. Choose a weatherstripping which is easily compressible, bounces back, doesn't shrink and performs well in cold weather. For edge or sliding applications, ensure the material maintains a continuous seal the length of the crack.

Most weatherstripping is sold with its own fastening system. Some are screwed onto the surface, while others have a self-adhesive backing.

The accompanying chart provides information on the types of weatherstripping commonly used for doors, windows and attic hatches. For information on specific brand names, consult the manufacturer's literature or your building supply dealer.

Type	Durability	Application	Installation	Performance	Comments
 Felt	Low	Face-type Pressure seal	Nailed, stapled	Ineffective	Easily deformed
 Foam, open cell	Low	Face-type Pressure seal	Self-adhesive, nailed, stapled	Ineffective	May lose flexibility
 Tubular	High	Face-type Pressure seal	Nailed, stapled, screwed	Effective	Highly noticeable Some products adjust better to irregularities in the gap between the window or door and its frame
 Spring-loaded or self-adjusting	High	Face-type Pressure seal	Screwed	Effective	Used for hinged windows and doors Adjusts to irregularities in the gap between the window or door and its frame May be noticeable
 Rubber, closed cell	High	Face-type Pressure seal	Self-adhesive, nailed, stapled	Effective	Excellent freeze-thaw stability Retains its original shape Does not shrink or crack, remains flexible Trouble accommodating long or varied gap widths
 Spring metal strip	High	Edge-type Pressure or sliding seal	Nailed, stapled	Effective	Easily deformed Long-lasting
 Spring vinyl or V-type strips	High	Face- or edge-type Pressure or sliding seal	Self-adhesive, nailed, stapled	Effective	Available in a variety of shapes, widths and thicknesses Polypropylene strips are more resistant to shrinking, cracking or brittleness in colder climates
 Polyester or polypropylene pile	Medium	Face- or edge-type Sliding or sweep-type seal	Self-adhesive, stapled or track	Reasonably effective	Primarily a replacement seal for sliding windows and doors. Care should be taken to replace with the correct size Can be purchased either with or without an attached plastic fin to improve the seal
 Magnetic systems	High	Face-type Pressure seal	Self-adhesive, nailed, stapled, screwed	Reasonably effective	Highly noticeable May not provide a good seal in colder temperatures Steel strip must be attached to wooden doors or windows
 Tape	Low	Face-type	Self-adhesive	Effective	Used on windows and doors that will not be opened during the winter

# Solar energy attractive option for pool owners

Maintaining a comfortable water temperature in your swimming pool need not cost you a small fortune in energy bills every summer. Today, a growing number of Canadian homeowners are choosing solar energy systems to heat their pool water, and they will be enjoying the benefits of energy savings long into the future.

The most widely-used fuel for heating swimming pools is natural gas, followed by oil, propane, solar energy and electricity. However, once installed, solar energy is the

only system that operates free of energy charges. An added benefit is that solar systems are virtually maintenance-free. Finally, solar systems conserve conventional fuel for other, more valuable uses.

### Comparing costs

A typical natural gas pool-heating system costs about \$1,400 to purchase and install, plus up to \$600 per year for fuel. In other words, the system would cost \$2,000 during its first year of operation and up to \$600 each following year (like the

prices of most energy sources, this cost will increase year after year).

A solar pool-heating system has a slightly higher installation cost typically about \$2,500, but no on-going fuel charges. In fact, the average homeowner can usually recover the initial cost through fuel savings within a few years.

In a comparison of the installation, fuel and maintenance costs for a variety of pool heating systems, the Canadian Solar Industries Association has demonstrated that solar systems are significantly less costly. Over a 10-year period, the

total cost would be \$14,476 for electric heating; \$13,094 for oil heating; and \$10,358 for natural gas. The total costs for a solar system would be under \$3,000.

### How they operate

Solar heating systems operate on a simple principle: solar panels absorb energy from the sun and convert it to heat. Water from the pool is pumped through these panels, where it absorbs the heat before returning to the pool. Most solar pool heating systems consist of solar panels (also called collectors), piping and a few valves. Although the

system can be controlled manually, an automatic control feature can be added for increased efficiency and convenience. Like most pool heating systems, the pool filter pump is used to circulate the water to be heated.

With a solar pool heating system, the swimming season can usually be extended by about two weeks at the beginning and at the end of the season, at no extra cost. Most people with a conventionally-heated pool are reluctant to turn on the heating system until good weather is guaranteed.



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