

# Residential HVAC Duct Sealing Overview for Consumers

a BGE Smart Energy Savers Program<sup>SM</sup>

*Do you have high utility bills, stuffy rooms, or a dusty house? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may have leaky, poorly insulated, or inefficient ducts. A typical house loses 20–40 percent of the air that moves through the duct system due to leaks, holes, and poorly connected ducts. The result is higher energy use and difficulty keeping the house comfortable, regardless of the thermostat setting.*

BGE's Residential HVAC Duct Sealing Program is designed to improve the efficiency of duct distribution systems and installed HVAC equipment. A duct system that is properly sealed and insulated can make your home more comfortable, energy efficient, and safer. Sealing and insulating ducts can:

- **Save Money**—Lowering your energy use, and often paying for itself in energy savings. Plus, homeowners can receive a \$200 rebate.
- **Improve Comfort**—Balancing temperatures in your home, and eliminating rooms that are too hot or too cold.
- **Enhance Indoor Air Quality**—Reducing the risk of pollutants entering ducts and circulating through your home.
- **Promote Safety**—Reducing the risk of “back drafting,” where gases from gas-operated appliances are drawn back into the living space.

- **Protect the Environment**—Using less energy at home, you can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions required to make electricity.

## Get Your \$200 Rebate

The program offers financial incentives to BGE customers who perform the duct distribution system sealing to a separately metered, single family home (detached or attached) with a gas or electric system. All installations must meet the program's criteria, and your contractor must be approved by the program and submit the necessary documentation on your behalf.

Call **1-877-685-SESP (7377)** or visit

**BGESmartEnergy.com** today for more information.



## What to Expect

A qualified Residential HVAC Duct Sealing Program Contractor will:

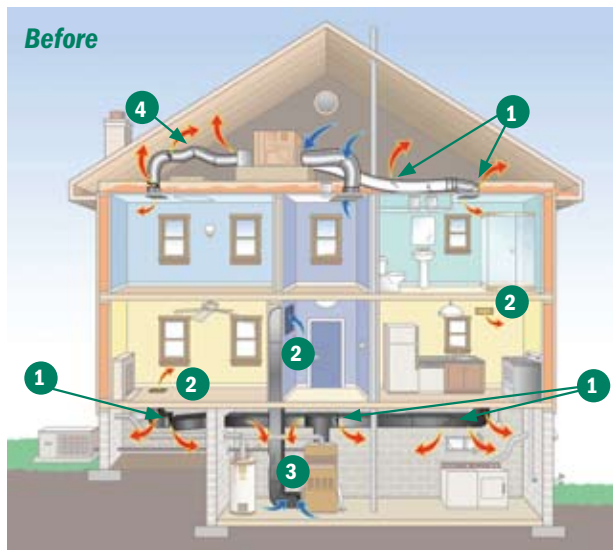
- Conduct a visual inspection of your home's duct system.
- Evaluate the duct system's supply and return air balance.
- Repair damage, including straightening flexible ducts and repairing duct supports.
- Seal all leaks and connections with mastic, metal tape or an aerosol-based sealant.

- Seal all registers and grills tightly to ducts.
- Insulate ducts in unconditioned areas, such as attics.
- Include a new duct filter as part of any duct system improvement.
- Evaluate air flow before and after duct repairs and sealing to determine performance improvement.

Learn more about other energy-saving programs offered through the BGE Smart Energy Savers Program<sup>SM</sup> at [BGESmartEnergy.com](http://BGESmartEnergy.com).

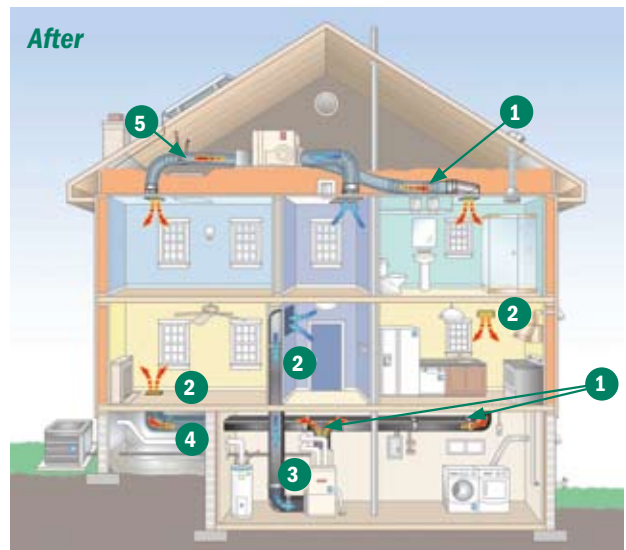
## Simple Steps to Improving Duct Performance

Because ducts are often concealed in walls, ceiling, attics, and basements, repairing them can be difficult. But there are things that you can do to improve duct performance in your house.



### Common Duct Problems

- 1 Leaky, torn, and disconnected ducts
- 2 Poorly sealed registers and grills
- 3 Leaks at furnace and filter slot
- 4 Kinks in flexible ductwork restricting airflow



### Common Duct Solutions

- 1 Properly sealed ducts
- 2 Registers and grills tightly sealed to ducts
- 3 Sealed furnace and filter slot
- 4 Well-insulated ducts in unfinished areas
- 5 Straightened flexible ducts with improved airflow

Illustrations courtesy of ENERGY STAR®

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