

Technical Bulletin: Infiltration Testing

July 1, 2013



Please review the proper blower door procedures as defined by RESNET:

Use the testing protocol described in ASHRAE Standard 119 Section 5.1, with the modifications described below:

The following protocol shall be followed in preparing the building envelope for testing:

1. Leave all supply registers and return grills open and uncovered.
2. Leave all bathroom and kitchen fans open (i.e., in their normal operating condition). Only a permanently installed back draft damper in its normal condition may impede the flow of air.
3. Leave any combustion air ducts or louvers to the exterior open. (If a homeowner or builder has sealed them off, open them for the test.)
4. Leave any make-up air ducts with in-line dampers (e.g., for large kitchen exhaust fans or combustion air) as-is (unsealed). Only a permanently installed back draft damper or motorized damper, in its normal condition may impede the flow of air.
5. Leave the dryer vent as-is, whether or not the dryer is in place during the test. Only a permanently installed back draft damper in its normal condition may impede the flow of air.
6. Leave open any outside air duct supplying fresh air for intermittent ventilation systems (including a central-fan-integrated distribution system)
7. Operable crawl-space vents, where present, are to be left in the open position.
- 8. Open all interior doors within the conditioned space, including doors to conditioned basements. (Closet doors may be left closed unless the closet contains windows or access to the attic or crawl space).**
9. Leave louvered openings of a whole-house fan as is. (If there is a seasonal cover in place during the test, leave it in place.)
10. Close all doors to the exterior or unconditioned spaces; if any door to the exterior or unconditioned space lacks weather-stripping at testing time, it can be temporarily taped off.
11. Close and latch all windows.
12. Close chimney dampers.
13. Either seal or fill with water plumbing drains with p-traps that may be empty.
14. Seal off exterior duct openings to continuously operating fresh-air or exhaust-air ventilation systems (preferably at the exterior envelope).
15. Close any adjustable window trickle ventilators and/or adjustable through-the-wall vents.
16. If an evaporative cooler has been supplied with a device used to seal openings to the exterior during the winter, that device should be installed for the test.

***** Please note, turning on the exhaust fans during the blower door test is NOT allowed*****