

Frequently Asked Questions

This document is intended to provide program specific information for utilities, PTCS certified technicians and companies about the BPA PTCS and Prescriptive duct sealing program. *Utility programs determine their own reimbursement criteria, which may include additional requirements above and beyond what BPA requires. Contractors should be aware of their customers' utility requirements before starting work.* Answers provided below may be revised if the program, BPA Implementation Manual, or PTCS specifications change.

Duct Sealing

I) Duct Sealing

What is the difference between PTCS and Prescriptive Duct Sealing?

While the specifications for both types of duct sealing have recently been updated for more alignment, there are two primary differences between them.

1. **Leakage testing:** PTCS Duct Sealing requires a pre-leakage test conducted prior to sealing and a post-leakage test conducted after sealing. Prescriptive Duct Sealing does not require any pre- or post-leakage testing.
2. **Certification training:** PTCS Duct Sealing Certification requires training with a PTCS-certified trainer or an approved alternative. Obtain certification by reviewing an online training. More information about how to become certified on the [PTCS Participation FAQ](#).

What are the documentation requirements for PTCS Duct Sealing and Prescriptive Duct Sealing?

There are different documentation requirements for PTCS duct sealing and Prescriptive duct sealing projects. Check with the customer's utility for additional documentation requirements or alternative forms.

PTCS Duct Sealing

BPA does require entry of all PTCS duct sealing projects into the PTCS Online Registry. Data entry can be done on the registry using any mobile device or computer with internet access or using the offline entry tool to record data on-site, and later upload as a completed measure. The optional PTCS duct sealing form below can be completed for online entry at a later time. An equipment or contractor invoice, and a printed Registry Installation Report – which is also on the registry – must be provided to the utility with every project, along with any additional required documents.

- [PTCS Duct Sealing Specification](#) (English; April 2015)
- [PTCS Duct Sealing Specification](#) (Spanish; April 2015)

Prescriptive Duct Sealing

BPA does not require entry of any Prescriptive duct sealing project into the PTCS Online Registry. However, utilities can still require technicians to enter data online, at their discretion. An equipment or contractor invoice must be provided to the utility with every project, along with any additional required documents.

- If the utility does not require project data entry into the PTCS Online Registry, the Prescriptive Duct Sealing form below must be completed.
- If the utility requires project data entry, the [PTCS Online Registry](#) can be accessed from any mobile device or computer with internet access or using the offline entry tool. A printed Registry Installation Report, which is also located on the Registry, must also be included in the project's customer file.
 - [Prescriptive Duct Sealing Specification](#) (English; April 2015)
 - [Prescriptive Duct Sealing Specification](#) (Spanish; April 2015)

As a contractor, how will I know if a home has already received a PTCS duct sealing measure?

Search for it on the PTCS website at the following location. <https://ptcs.bpa.gov/MeasuresBySite/Index>
Contractors may also call the homeowner's utility or the PTCS program directly at 1.800-941-3867; both can reference the PTCS database to determine if the ducts have previously been PTCS certified.

What is a PTCS Certified-only job?

A PTCS Certified-only job in the PTCS Registry means that the ducts were not leaky enough to qualify for the BPA reimbursement for duct sealing and that duct sealing is not required.

When duct sealing is required, does the specification require duct tape be removed before mastic is applied?

The PTCS Specification requires a good faith effort to remove duct tape and replace with mastic. Duct tape that cannot be removed shall be completely covered with mastic.

What does it mean when the PTCS Specification requires that "all accessible ducts must be sealed"?

If an inspector can reach the ducts in an unconditioned space then the ducts must be sealed.