

# Understanding Your Attic

Take a tour of your attic and find out how home weatherization can keep your family warm this winter and cool and comfortable during the summer months.

Your attic plays an important role in keeping your home comfortable and your energy costs low. Because the attic is often exposed to the extremes of the seasons, this area requires special attention to reduce heat transfer between living spaces and the unconditioned attic. A well insulated attic keeps indoor air temperatures comfortable all year long.

## Before you insulate:

Air sealing is the first step a homeowner should take prior to installing new attic insulation. Air sealing makes the insulation in your attic more effective by fixing air leaks at the source so both warm and cold air stay where they belong.

## Attic air sealing helps you:

- Save energy and reduce monthly bills.
- Keep moisture out of the attic, where cold temperatures can cause condensation and damage.

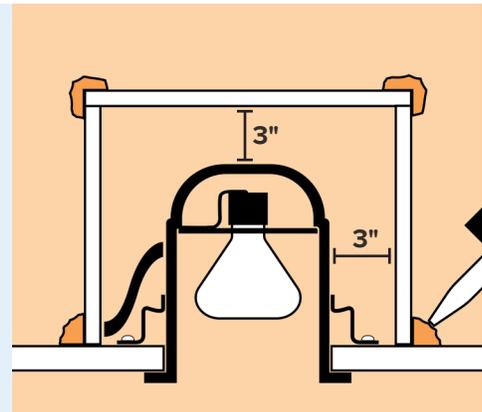
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## Common Air Leak Areas:

### Recessed can lights

Recessed lights leak air through the many small holes in the fixture. Air sealing can prevent this energy waste.

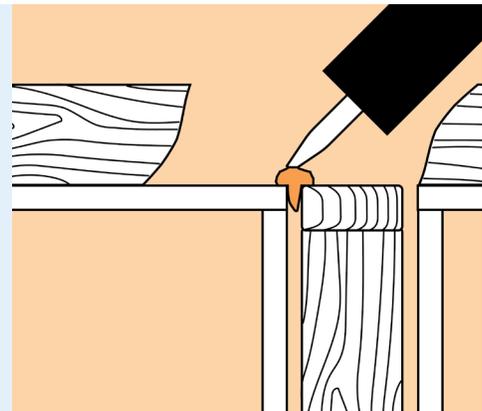
Your insulation expert can help ensure recessed lights are sealed correctly to avoid overheating, keeping your ceiling airtight and allowing insulation to be properly installed around the fixture.



### Top plates

Interior and exterior walls experience air leakage through small gaps between drywall and attic floor framing. A 1/8 inch gap between the sheetrock and top plate can add up to the equivalent air loss of a three square foot opening in your home, leading to loss of warm air into the attic.

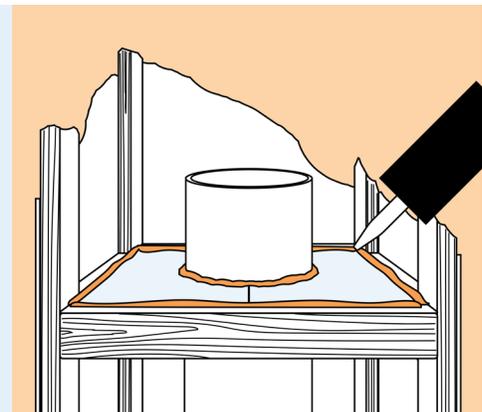
By sealing these areas with caulk and removing the gap at the top plate connections, you'll see your home's comfort greatly increased.



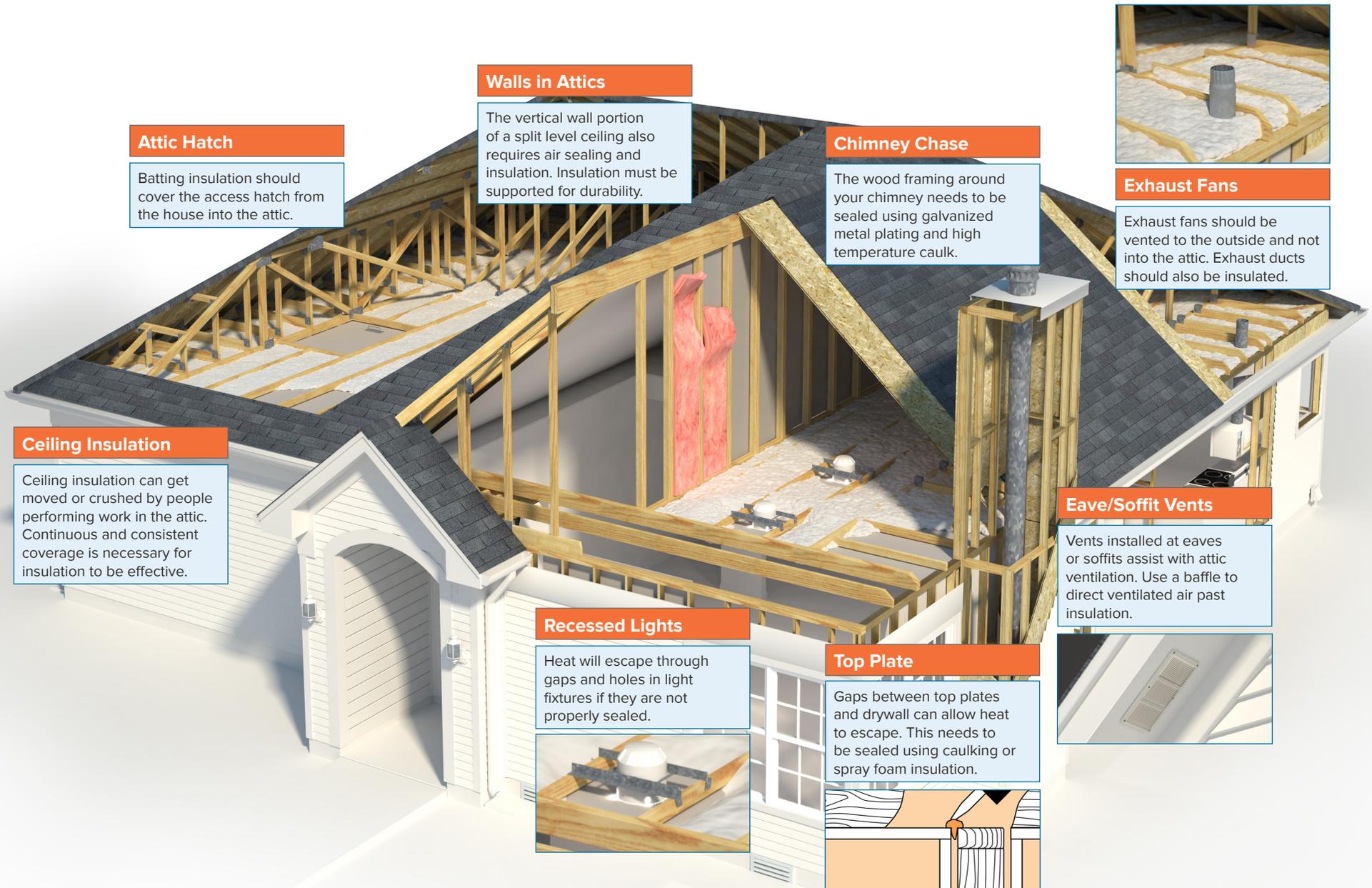
### Chimney chases

One surprise source of air leaks is the chimney chase. During construction, a 3-inch gap is required between the chimney and framing. This opening can be a jet-stream through which air escapes.

The good news is this gap is easily sealed with galvanized metal plating and fire safe caulking, keeping warm air from escaping and pulling cold air from the crawl space to replace it.



# Attic Insulation & Air Sealing



## Attic Hatch

Batting insulation should cover the access hatch from the house into the attic.

## Walls in Attics

The vertical wall portion of a split level ceiling also requires air sealing and insulation. Insulation must be supported for durability.

## Chimney Chase

The wood framing around your chimney needs to be sealed using galvanized metal plating and high temperature caulk.



## Exhaust Fans

Exhaust fans should be vented to the outside and not into the attic. Exhaust ducts should also be insulated.

## Ceiling Insulation

Ceiling insulation can get moved or crushed by people performing work in the attic. Continuous and consistent coverage is necessary for insulation to be effective.

## Eave/Soffit Vents

Vents installed at eaves or soffits assist with attic ventilation. Use a baffle to direct ventilated air past insulation.



## Recessed Lights

Heat will escape through gaps and holes in light fixtures if they are not properly sealed.



## Top Plate

Gaps between top plates and drywall can allow heat to escape. This needs to be sealed using caulking or spray foam insulation.

