

Understanding Your Crawl Space

Take a tour of your crawl space and find out how weatherization can dramatically improve the comfort of your home.

Many people underestimate how much an improperly weatherized crawl space affects the comfort and indoor air quality of the home.

Q: Why do we air seal and insulate in the crawl space?

A: Crawl spaces are naturally cold and humid environments. Sealing and insulation can stop cold drafts while keeping unpleasant odors and moisture out of the house.

Moisture problems in your crawl space can lead to mold, rot, and other structural damage, and can even reduce the quality of the air your family breathes.

Crawl Space Weatherization: What You Need to Know

The good news about crawl space weatherization is that the air sealing and insulation you do today will start to pay off almost immediately, as you experience greater comfort in your home and lower energy bills.

Info Goes Here

Crawl Space Must-Haves:

Dryer Vents

It's important to remember as clothing dries, the air that's being vented out of the dryer carries a large amount of moisture along with it.

This air should never be vented into the crawl space or attic, but should be vented to an outside opening so moist air can escape to the outdoors. This will help avoid moisture buildup in the crawl space.



Insulation Supports

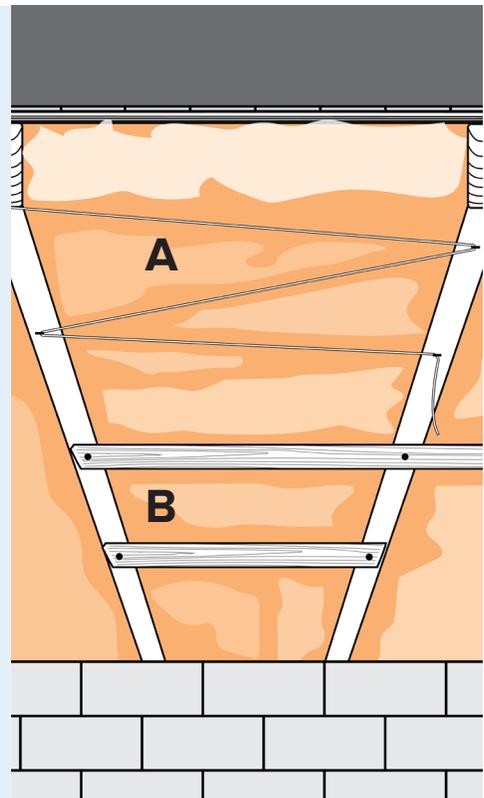
Insulating your crawl space will keep your floors--and feet--warmer in the winter. Floor insulation requires additional supports to ensure insulation stays in place without slipping and opening gaps for cold air to sneak into. Two insulation support methods can be used for this application.

A. Twine/Wire Support:

Nylon twine or wire is stapled regularly and laced across batt insulation to hold it in place.

B. Wood Lath Support:

Wood lath is nailed or stapled to the bottom of underfloor beams, forming horizontal cross patterns that keep insulation in place.





Electrical Penetrations

Foam, caulk, or other airtight seal should be applied around electrical fixtures and plumbing penetrations.

Crawl Space Hatch

Insulation must be strapped to the hatch between the house and the crawl space. Use weatherstripping to make an airtight seal around the hatch.

Underfloor Insulation

If not properly supported, underfloor insulation can sag, leaving gaps that reduce the effectiveness of insulation.

Duct Supports

All ducts will need to be supported to avoid bending or sagging.

Crawl Space Vents

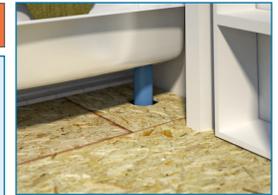
Vents in the foundation help moisture trapped in the crawl space escape to the outside instead of the home.

Ground Cover

A black plastic vapor barrier keeps moisture and soil gases from escaping into the air in the crawl space.

Bath/Shower Cut Out

A plumbing access cutout for the tub or shower can leave a large opening in your underfloor, allowing air to move through insulation into the home.



Dryer Exhaust

Dryer exhaust should vent to the outside, not into the crawl space

Crawl Space Insulation & Air Sealing