

Duct Soup: Research and Impact Results for Duct Sealing Programs

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Introduction

Energy efficiency program administrators in many parts of the U.S. are developing or providing duct sealing directly, through home performance programs and in conjunction with central air conditioning replacements and new construction programs. The Northeast, in particular, is a region in which duct sealing has been added to the residential energy efficiency portfolio. Various delivery strategies exist. In addition, duct sealing is addressed in building energy code (Title 24) in California.

This poster presents the following: 1) Facts and figures about how leaky and/or poorly designed duct systems are a recipe for potential energy savings; 2) A menu of programs throughout the nation, factors that impact the types of programs that are provided, the level of participation by contractors and customers; and 3) Necessary ingredients to delivering a successful duct sealing program based on recent regional research efforts. This poster draws on experience from existing programs based on process and impact studies as well as on market research that explores issues influencing the success of developing a market for duct sealing. The poster essentially characterizes, compares and contrasts opportunities, barriers, and challenges encountered in various duct sealing program strategies, and presents various options to evaluate duct sealing programs.