

Understanding Your Home's Blower Door Test

A **blower door test** is a simple but powerful tool used to measure how airtight your home is. Think of your house like a jacket—if it's full of holes, you'll feel drafts and waste energy. The blower door test helps us find those "holes" so your home can be more comfortable and efficient.

During the test, we install a powerful fan in an exterior door—usually the front or back door. This fan pulls air out of the house, slightly lowering the indoor air pressure. As a result, outside air begins to enter through any gaps or leaks in your home's outer shell—also called the **building envelope**. This includes the walls, windows, doors, roof, and foundation.

We use specialized equipment to measure how much air is moving through the leaks. The more air coming in, the leakier your home is. A standard pressure level is used (50 Pascals), which allows us to compare your home's air tightness to others, and to local building standards.

As we test, we'll often walk through the house using tools like smoke pencils or thermal cameras to find exactly where the leaks are. Common trouble spots include attic access panels, window frames, door thresholds, plumbing penetrations, and recessed lights.

At the end of the test, we'll give you:

- A **numeric score** showing your home's airtightness (measured in Air Changes per Hour, or ACH50).
- A list of **leak locations** we found.
- Practical **recommendations** to improve your home's energy efficiency and comfort—like sealing gaps, adding insulation, or upgrading weatherstripping.

Blower door testing is especially valuable in cold climates like Alaska, where air leaks can lead to high energy bills and cold drafts in winter. By identifying and fixing these issues, you can enjoy a more comfortable home, lower heating costs, and even qualify for energy incentives or meet required energy codes.

If you're building a new home, doing renovations, or just want to improve your current home's performance, a blower door test is a smart step in the right direction.