

A **duct leakage test** is an important diagnostic tool used to measure how much air escapes from a home's forced-air heating and cooling duct system. This test helps determine the overall efficiency of the ductwork and its impact on home energy use. Leaky ducts can result in significant energy losses, uneven heating or cooling, and reduced indoor air quality. During the test, a calibrated fan pressurizes the duct system while all registers are sealed, allowing precise measurement of air leakage. The results, typically reported in cubic feet per minute at 25 Pascals (CFM25), help identify whether the duct system meets energy code requirements and performance standards. Reducing duct leakage improves comfort, lowers energy bills, and supports better performance in energy rating programs like the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's BEES certification.