

March 2016

## *Seal Air Leaks with Caulk*

Did you know heating and cooling accounts for roughly half of your home's energy use? Caulking cracks and gaps around windows, doors and spaces around wires (telephone, electrical, cable and gas lines), water spigots and dryer vents can pay off with big energy savings.

According to the U. S. Department of Energy, the approximate cost of caulking is \$5-\$30. The approximate energy savings is 5-10 percent.

**Materials You Will Need:** Caulk, caulk gun, knife or tool to cut, rags, water

1. **PREP:** Clean the area where you will be applying the caulk. Remove any dirt, loose paint or old, cracked caulk.

Be sure the area is dry before applying new caulk appropriate for your application.

2. **LOAD:** You will need to pull the plunger all the way back to load the tube of caulk into the barrel of the caulking gun.

Next, squeeze the trigger a few times until the plunger makes contact with the tube. Squeeze once or twice more to fill the tip with caulk.

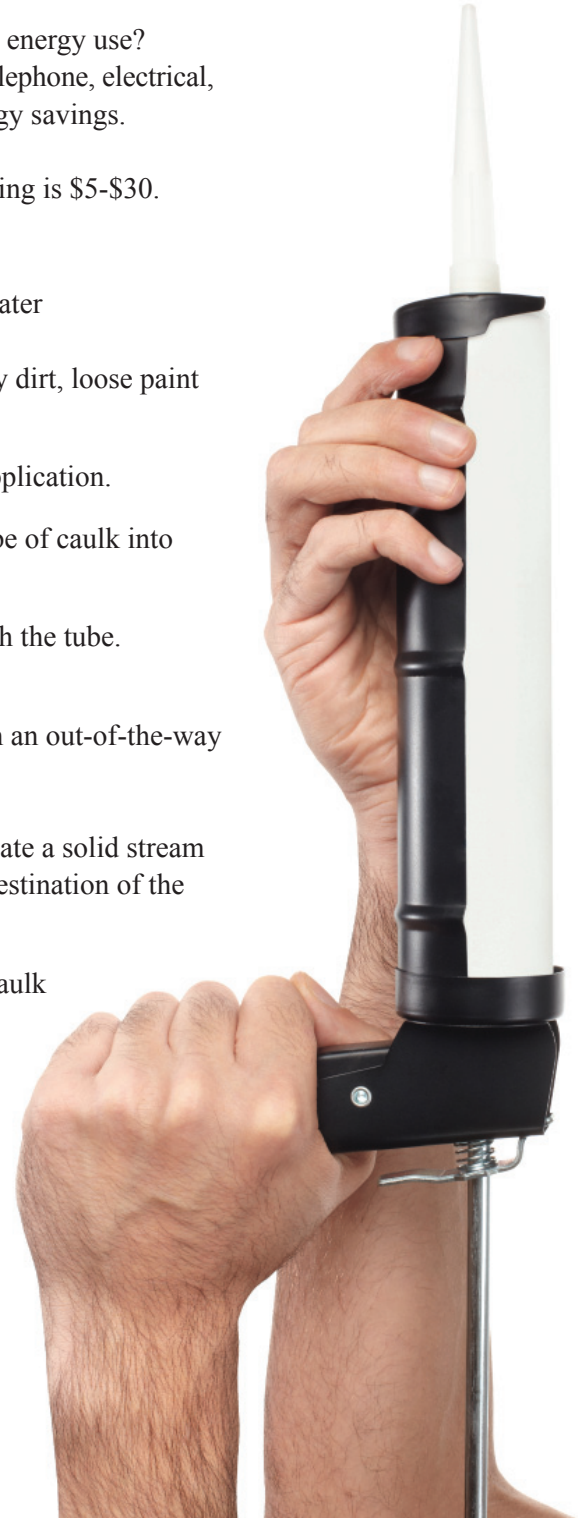
3. **APPLY:** To figure out the right amount of caulk needed, experiment with an out-of-the-way section. You may find that you need less caulk than you thought.

Hold the gun at a slight angle. Apply steady pressure on the trigger to create a solid stream from the tip, which should be placed 1/2 inch or less from the intended destination of the material.

Use just enough caulk to do the job. Use your finger to gently press the caulk into the corner, crack, or space.

4. **RELEASE:** Once the trigger is fully depressed, allow it to spring back and depress it again. Keep the gun moving while caulk continues to come from the tip.
5. **CLEAN:** Use a damp cloth or rag to clean off most of the excess caulk. Use a dry cloth to clean off the rest.

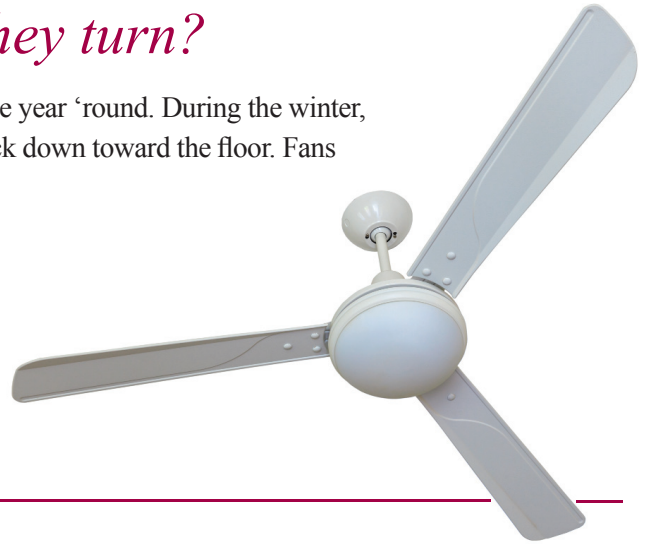
Nolin's energy advisors usually have a supply of caulk in their trucks, and they will be happy to give you caulk when they visit your home for a FREE energy evaluation.



## Ceiling Fans: Which way should they turn?

Ceiling fans are economical to operate and can help keep you comfortable year 'round. During the winter, they circulate the heated air that has risen to the ceiling and redirect it back down toward the floor. Fans used during the winter should be operated at low speeds.

Most ceiling fans are designed to be reversible for winter operation. Make sure that the direction of airflow on your ceiling fan is upward in the winter for maximum effectiveness. This will force heat back down around the walls. Don't forget to reverse the switch when the weather warms up so that the air will help cool your room!



## Check us out on Facebook

The next time you're on Facebook (FB), be sure to search for "Nolin Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation" so you can like and share our page with your friends. Nolin recently created an official FB site and we'll be posting energy saving programs, special events, and outage information for our members and friends. Check us out!



## Thinking about a new home?

Our home programs maximize your comfort and save energy dollars.

### Touchstone Energy Home

For new construction, this program helps you build an energy-efficient home. You'll save energy and money for years to come.

### ENERGY STAR® Manufactured Home

This program upgrades your new home to an energy-efficient model at no cost, in most cases.

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