

NEWSLETTER

Unlock Comfort and Savings

When working on your summer tasks, consider adding home weatherization to your checklist. Typically, we focus on weatherizing our homes during the winter months when we feel the cold near windows or drafty doors. However, weatherizing your home can enhance comfort and save energy throughout the year, especially during the summer when your air conditioning is running constantly.

As per [energystar.gov](https://www.energystar.gov), a home with inadequate insulation and air leaks wastes over 20% of the energy used for heating or cooling, essentially wasting money. Luckily, most weatherization projects are simple to do yourself and can be finished in a day.

The easiest and most cost-effective weatherization methods involve sealing air around windows and exterior doors.

For older windows, chances are air is escaping through small cracks and gaps around the frame. Do a quick visual check. If you see daylight around the frame or the windows shake easily, there are likely air leaks. Also, inspect for any tiny cracks around the frame that may not be visible in sunlight.

If you suspect leaky windows and plan to apply new caulk, ensure to remove the old caulk and clean the area thoroughly before application. Different caulking materials have varying strengths and properties, but you'll probably need about half a cartridge per window.

Silicone caulk is a common choice and can also seal joints between bathroom and kitchen fixtures. Any leftover caulk can be used to seal those areas as well.



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Another straightforward yet effective weatherization project involves installing weatherstripping around exterior doors. Here are the key points to consider:

- The common types of weatherstripping options include V-channel, felt, and foam tape.
- When choosing the best type, think about temperature changes and exposure to weather.
- Felt or foam tape are popular choices due to their ease of installation, but they may need replacement every few years depending on usage.
- Ensure weatherstripping is placed around the top and sides of the door.
- If there is light visible at the bottom of the door, consider adding a door sweep.
- Door sweeps come in materials like aluminum, plastic, vinyl, and felt.
- For windows, weatherstripping can be applied to the sides of double-hung or sliding windows and around the window sash.
- If you need guidance on installing weatherstripping or applying caulk, refer to reputable websites such as [Lowe's.com](https://www.lowes.com) or [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov) for detailed instructions and tutorials.

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To enhance the comfort of your home, consider adding insulation. While this project can be more expensive and may require professional assistance, it is a reliable method to reduce heat loss, impacting energy consumption during both winter and summer. Older homes might need updated insulation to meet current efficiency standards or replace outdated materials. If you suspect inadequate insulation levels, contact a certified installation expert.

To pinpoint air leaks in your home, opt for a blower door test conducted by an energy specialist. This test helps assess your home's airtightness and locate any leaks.

Apart from energy savings, air sealing can prevent moisture-related problems, enhance indoor air quality, and prolong the lifespan of your heating and cooling system. Weatherize your home to enjoy year-round comfort and lower monthly energy expenses.

3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

IN ADDITION TO INCREASED COMFORT, WEATHERIZING YOUR HOME IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO SAVE ENERGY AND LOWER YOUR COOLING & HEATING COSTS. HERE ARE THREE WAYS YOU CAN SEAL IN COMFORT AND SAVINGS.



CAULK

Apply caulking around cracks and openings between fixed house components such as door and window frames.



WEATHER STRIPPING

Fit weather stripping around moving parts such as doors and windows that open.



INSULATE

Think about adding more insulation in places such as unfinished attics, exterior walls, and floors above insulated areas.

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PRESS RELEASE

Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative in preparation of rural broadband expansion

Many parts of East Texas are underserved in the area of high-speed internet. To help with this, the United States Federal Communications Commission awarded over \$9.2 billion in Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) grants to U.S. telecommunication companies.

Broadband offers access to quality education, healthcare, economic development, and business opportunities. URECC believes that access to affordable broadband is critical for rural communities like ours to thrive, so we will be working with these entities to facilitate the expansion.

Spectrum Gulf Coast LLC (aka Charter Communications) won the right to provide broadband over power lines in our region. This means they will be attaching fiber cables onto URECC power poles where applicable. The good news for electric cooperative members is that Charter will pay for any structural upgrades to our system, as needed, to support the additional weight of their fiber cables and equipment.

Of important note, URECC, has not assigned Charter authority to access the landowner's property through our easements. Each member-landowner retains the right to allow Charter and their contractors entrance/egress onto their property.

In addition, URECC has contracted REI Utility Services to conduct engineering surveys on the URECC system.

Just as rural electrification brought affordable electricity to the farmer, we believe broadband will offer access to many opportunities for our region. If you have any questions or complaints regarding REI Utility Services (excluding Charter), please feel free to call our URECC Member Services at 903-843-2536 or 800-259-2536.

There will be two different avenues of contact for our members related to service with Charter:

1. Work in progress (Service boundary not active) – SpectrumComingSoon.com - This will allow members to check their specific address for future availability and updates. If members attempt to sign up for service before construction is complete, your address will not be available in Spectrum's billing system.
2. Construction complete (Service boundary active) – SpectrumIsHere.com or 855-282-8991.

For any concerns or complaints with active work in the area please call Charter at: 972-537-5469.

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We will exemplify our core values

by being:

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RESPECTFUL

EFFICIENT

TRUSTWORTHY

ADAPTABLE

SAFE