

**Weatherstripping Chart** (University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources)

Weatherstripping Choices Type	Description and Materials Used	Use	Cost	Advantages	Disadvantages
<b>Tension seal:</b> Self-stick plastic (vinyl) in a V-shape, or spring tension metal (bronze, copper, aluminum, or stainless steel.)	Self-adhesive plastic folded along its length or springy metal folded along its length in a V-shape strip to bridge gaps. Adhesive backed or nailed in place.	Inside track or channels of double-hung and sliding windows and top and sides of doorjamb.	Moderate to high. Depends on material.	Durable. Self-stick easier to install. Effective in stopping air infiltration - creates seal by pressing against sides of space. Hidden from view.	Can be difficult to install - corners must be snug and fit well. Bronze should be nailed in place every 3". Can increase resistance in opening and closing windows and doors. Surfaces must be flat and smooth for vinyl.
<b>Felt:</b> Wool, polyester or cotton.	Plain or reinforced with flexible metal strip. Must be stapled, tacked or glued in place. Sold in rolls. Seals best if staples are parallel to length of strip.	For door, window, attic hatches, fitted into a door jamb as door presses against it. Low traffic areas.	Lower cost.	Easy to install.	Lower durability; less effective at preventing air infiltration. Not for use where exposed to moisture, abrasion or friction. Wool felt more durable but more expensive. Visible in place. Needs tight compression.
<b>Foam tape</b> Flexible	Made from nonporous, closed cell-foam, open-cell foam, or Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer rubber (EDPM). Foams are polyurethane, PVC, silicone, latex, etc.	Top and bottom of window sash, door frames, non-operable windows, attic doors, hatches	Low.	Easy to install. Works well when compressed. Good for blocking corners and irregular cracks. Closed-cell foams and EDPM and silicone foams more durable.	Self-adhesive may not adhere well in cold weather. Durability varies with type of material. Some may lose resiliency and effectiveness in one or two seasons. Use in areas of less wear and friction. Visible. Usually not long wearing.
<b>Reinforced foam</b> Rigid strip	Closed-cell foam attached to wood or metal strips.	Door or window stops; top or bottom of window sash; bottom of door.	Moderate to low	Effective sealer and does well in wind tests. Rigid. More durable than flexible foam tapes.	Can be difficult to install; must be sawed, nailed and painted. Visible.
<b>Tubular</b> Flexible or rigid strip	Vinyl, sponge or neoprene rubber, silicone, or urethane tubes with a flange along the length that is stapled or tacked into place.	Around doors. Window stop. Door or window press against tube gasket.	Moderate to high.	Effective air seal. Durable over time. Resists moisture. Usually nail or screw. Slots allow readjustments.	Self-sticking tubular more difficult to install. Provides very good seal, but does require closing pressure. Rigid more difficult to install; accuracy in corners important.

Tubular (cont)	Also available on rigid strips.			Effective on uneven gaps.	
<b>Rolled or Reinforced vinyl</b> Flexible or rigid strip	Rolled with gasket as flexible or attached to wood, plastic or metal strip. Tube may be filled with foam or hollow.	Door or window stops. Top or bottom of sash. Rigid strips on door bottom.	Low to moderate	Easy to install. Some types provide slot holes to adjust height. Comes in colors to reduce visibility. Effective air seal.	Self-adhesive pliable vinyl may not adhere well to metal or during cold weather. Visible.
<b>Pile seal or pile seal with fins</b>	Pile is compacted vinyl or polyester fibers. Pile weatherstripping with plastic fins such as Mylar centered in pile. Flexible or rigid strip. Some adhesive-backed.	Aluminum sliding windows and sliding glass doors. U-shape or L-shape for door bottom.	Moderate to high.	Good durability. Moderate to good seal. Multiple fins better at sealing if one fin is damaged.	Can be difficult to install. Nail or screw. Visible. Replace total unit when fins are worn. May need to cut door bottom.
<b>Interlocking metal channels</b>	Door and frame interlock when closed.	Around door and door bottom.	High	Very good weather seal.	Difficult to install and align correctly. Needs professional installation.
<b>Door sweep</b>	Aluminum or stainless steel strip with brush or leaf of vinyl, silicone, neoprene rubber, polyester, sponge, felt, etc. Automatic sweeps retract as door is opened.	Bottom of doors. Good on uneven floors. Attach to inside of in-swing doors and outside of exterior swing.	Low to high.	Easy to install. Most are adjustable for uneven threshold. Automatic retracting sweep available reduces drag on carpet and increases durability.	Visible. Can drag on carpet if not adjustable. Automatic require a pause after door is unlatched before opening.
<b>Door shoe or Door bottom</b>	Aluminum with gasket insert. Vinyl or neoprene rubber gaskets. Door presses against gasket to seal.	Seal space beneath door.	Moderate to high.	Sheds rain when placed on the exterior of door. Durable. Can use with uneven opening. Some have replaceable gasket inserts.	Installation somewhat difficult. Door may need removal. Door bottom may need to be planed.
<b>Bulb or Saddle threshold</b>	Vinyl or rubber bulb and aluminum, wood, vinyl or fiberglass threshold.	Door thresholds	Moderate to high	Combines threshold and weatherstrip. Good durability. Available in various lengths and heights.	Wear from traffic. Choose replaceable bulb threshold.