

## COZY HOME CORNER

By the Zerodraft House Doctor

### Weatherstrip Casement and Awning Windows to Stop Drafts and Improve Comfort

***Properly weatherstripping casement and awning-style windows can improve the durability, energy efficiency and comfort of your house.***

Casement and awning windows can be big energy wasters and allow cold drafts because they have many paths where air leakage can occur. In this column, we'll discuss installing professional-grade weatherseals to stop those drafts and improve comfort.

Casement windows are like small doors that swing open on vertical hinges. Awning windows are similar except the hinges are horizontal. Awning windows have been a favourite of home builders in the past and were used as the standard for basement windows for many years. Awnings rarely have any existing weatherstripping, making them a prime source of cold drafts and wasted energy. Casement windows usually have some form of existing weatherstripping, often inserted into a slot within the frame.

Retrofitting these windows is simply a case of cleaning the bearing surfaces, then installing a 'V' type of weatherstripping on the jamb around the window so that the pane slides over it and compresses it when the window is in the closed position. Although the weatherstripping is adhesive-backed, you will want to apply a spray contact adhesive to the bearing surface first to ensure a strong bond.

You can find the foldable V type of weatherstripping, usually in rolls, at your local hardware or home improvement store. However, these kinds tend to take a permanent set very quickly. An alternative is to use a molded V type product (e.g. Polyflex) available from industrial suppliers. This type comes in two widths: 1/2-inch and 1-1/4-inch; and two colours: white and tan. You may find that the hinged side of your window is tighter than the lock side, and that's where the smaller V seal may be appropriate. You may also wish to install the thinner seal on the window stop to act as a compression seal.

To finish, caulk the trim using clear siliconized latex to complete air seal continuity.

Properly air sealing your casement or awning windows will make a big difference to the comfort and energy efficiency of your home.

