

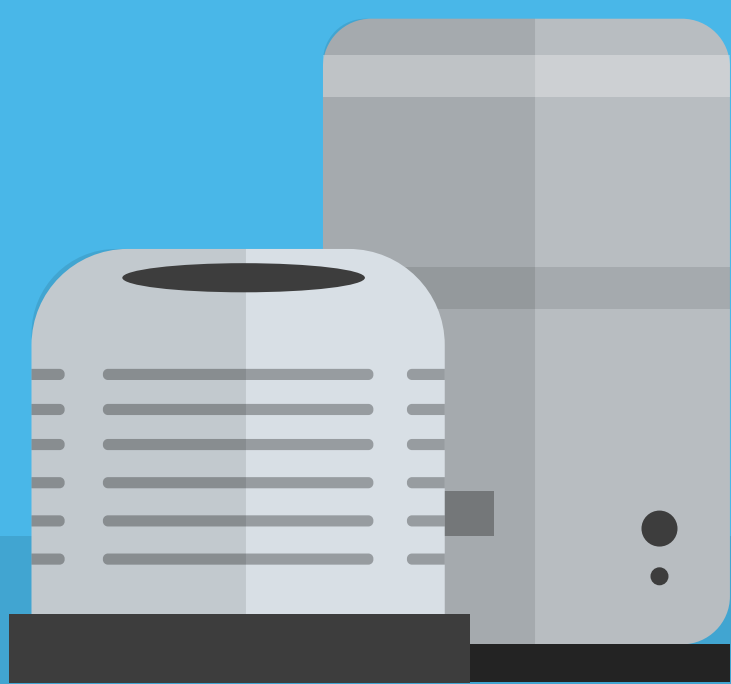


## Check the Roof

Ensure that rain water drains away from your home to keep your home dry and comfortable. Check rain gutters and down spouts to free them of debris.

## Inspect The Attic

Keep the attic dry. Roofs are hit hard throughout the year from rain and sun. In some cases, shingles can crack, allowing water through. While you're inspecting the attic, check to make sure attic vents are not obstructed by leaves or animal nests.



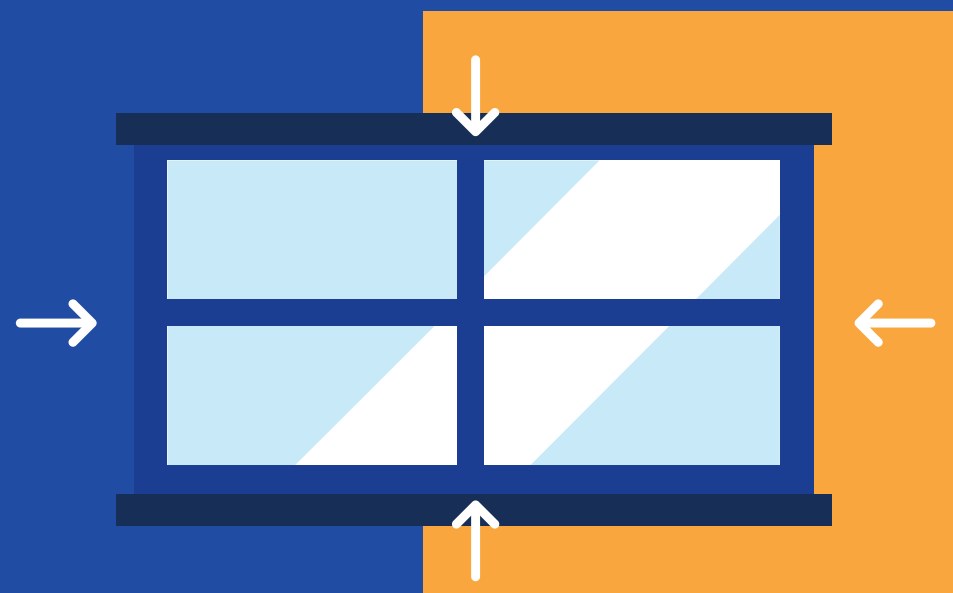
## Assess the HVAC system

Inspect your HVAC system for loose or broken connections and holes. Nearly 20 to 30 percent<sup>1</sup> of the warm or cool air moving through your ductwork is lost through leakage. Re-attach disconnected sections and seal any holes with aluminum tape or ductwork mastic.

Remember to change the air filters! Dirty air filters reduce the efficiency of your HVAC system by making it run longer and harder.

## Seal The Windows

Examine how well the windows and doors close. Add weather stripping or caulk to doors and windows to prevent the escape of air.



## Switch the Direction of Ceiling Fans

During the winter, ceiling fans can help heating systems to operate more efficiently. Reverse the direction of the fan to turn clockwise and set the fan at a low speed. This gentle updraft will force warm air to circulate down and around the living space.

## Seal Crawlspace

Texas homes with sealed and insulated crawlspaces are more energy-efficient with less moisture-related issues. An effective first step is to put down a moisture barrier in your home's crawlspace that will trap moisture and prevent it from evaporating and entering the house.



These projects can be done over the course of the next few weeks until the cold weather arrives in Texas. If done promptly, you'll be on track to start saving and improving your home's comfort. All the same, don't let these little jobs linger undone for too long, since energy costs will increase as winter arrives.