MAY • MISSION 05

Building-science guidance for Central Illinois homes

Seal the Perimeter

Finding the small leaks in the building envelope before cooling season.

/ WHY THIS MONTH?

Mild weather makes it easy to work around doors and windows. Small leaks add up across a whole season, and sealing is cheap maintenance.

/ THE HOMEOWNER'S MISSION

- Do the dollar-bill test on exterior doors: shut the door on a bill; if it slides out easily, the weatherstripping is worn.
- Look for cracked or missing caulk around window frames.
- Confirm the fireplace damper closes fully and seats tight.
- Check the dryer vent hood outside for lint buildup and a flap that moves freely.

/ WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Daylight visible under exterior doors
- Cracked, shrunken, or missing caulk at windows and trim
- Lint collecting at the dryer vent hood
- A damper that will not fully close

/ WHY IT MATTERS

Small leaks add up across the cooling season. Sealing is cheap maintenance — but this month, monitor what you find rather than spending on big fixes. Keep a list.

/ WHEN TO CALL GREEN PLATOON

It makes sense to get real data when:

- If comfort problems persist after basic sealing, or you want proof of where air leaks actually are before spending money

A blower-door test measures how much air leaks through the building envelope and helps identify where uncontrolled air leakage may be occurring.

QUICK WIN

Run the dollar-bill test on every exterior door and note which one is worst. 5 minutes, $0.

Home Missions is educational guidance. Never attempt work involving fuel gas, combustion equipment, dangerous electrical conditions, roofs, or hazardous materials.



