

# Make a Draftometer

## HEY! IS THIS BUILDING LEAKING?

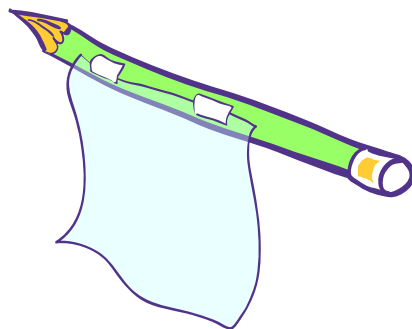
When doors and windows of your home or school are not tightly sealed, outside air can leak in. That means energy is being wasted, because the heater or air conditioner has to work much harder to heat or cool the room.

This simple draftometer is a good way to get started finding energy-wasting leaks.

### TRY THIS

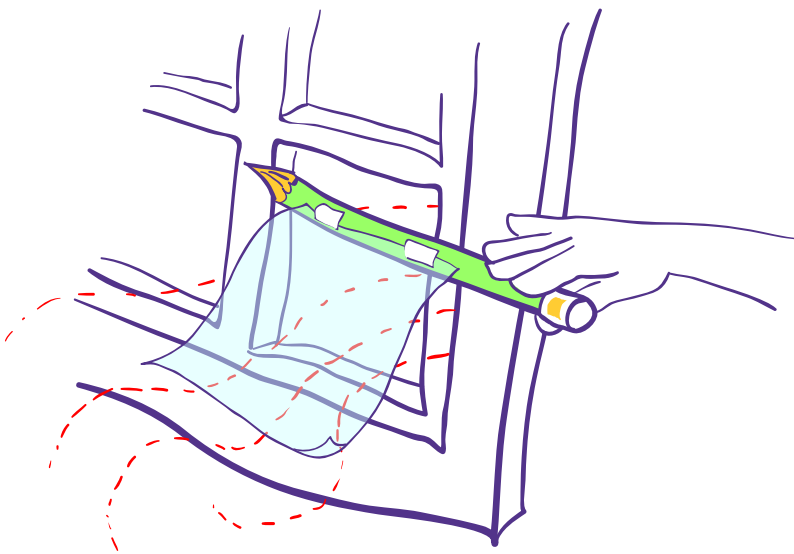
#### Construct a draftometer.

1. Cut food wrap into pieces about 5 inches wide and 10 inches long.
2. Tape the short edge of the plastic along the edge of a pencil.



#### Conduct air flow tests.

3. Hold the draftometer along the edges of windows in your classroom. Does the plastic wrap blow where there is an air leak?
4. Try it on the inside of exit doors in your school. Again, does the plastic wrap blow?



### THINGS YOU NEED

- Plastic food wrap
- Scissors
- Tape
- Pencils

### POWER WORDS

**Caulking** is material used to plug cracks and seams so air or water can't leak in or out.

**Insulation** is material used in ceilings and walls to prevent the loss of heat. It works like a blanket – by trapping air.

**Weatherize** is a way to describe many things done to a building to save energy by preventing the loss of heat in the winter or cool air in the summer.

**Weatherstripping** is strips of material that cover cracks around doors and windows to prevent air from leaking in or out.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What if you conducted this experiment at home?

How energy tight is your home?

Can a house be too tightly sealed? If it can be, how could that happen? What might happen in the house as a result?