



# Understanding Weatherization Standard Work Specifications, Field Guides, and Installer Job Aids

This document highlights several resources that weatherization contractors should be aware of to help them ensure the quality of their weatherization work, including Standard Work Specifications from the federal government, state-specific field guides, and job aids.

The **Quality Work Plan** from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program sets a standard for high-quality home energy upgrades. This plan requires that the Standard Work Specifications and state-specific field guides are followed when completing weatherization work. Understanding these resources is crucial for professionals in the field to ensure effective and sustainable home energy improvements.



## STANDARD WORK SPECIFICATIONS

The **Standard Work Specifications** (SWS), maintained by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), define the minimum acceptable outcomes for home energy upgrades. These standards— applicable to single-family, multifamily, and manufactured housing— aim to ensure consistency and high-quality outcomes in energy efficiency measures. Since 2014, the SWS has been a cornerstone in standardizing installations and technical monitoring for the Weatherization Assistance Program.



HOUSING TYPE
Search
Transforming ENERGY

Draft New Specifications
Health & Safety
Air Sealing
Insulation
Heating & Cooling
Ventilation
Baseload
About

Image Gallery
Help
Log in
Español

Expand all
Collapse all

1 - Using the Standard Work Specifications
0 - Draft New Specifications
2 - Health & Safety
3 - Air Sealing
3.01 - General Pressure Boundary
General Air Sealing
Specific Air Sealing
Intentional Attic Openings
Foundation Spaces
Attached Garages
3.02 - Shell Components
4 - Insulation
5 - Heating & Cooling
6 - Ventilation
7 - Baseload

Air Sealing » General Pressure Boundary » General Air Sealing » Air Sealing Holes

## Air Sealing Holes

Detail ID: 3.0101.1
COMMENT
FAVORITE

Topic: General Pressure Boundary

Subtopic: General Air Sealing

Desired Outcome: Prevent air movement through holes @ 50 Pascals of pressure

Legend - Housing Type

SF Single Family Site-Built Housing MH Manufactured Housing MF Multifamily Housing

☐ Select All

<input type="checkbox"/> 3.0101.1a Sealant selection	SF MH MF	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.0101.1b Material selection	SF MH MF	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.0101.1c Backing, infill, and support	SF MH MF	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.0101.1d Surface preparation	SF MH MF	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.0101.1e Sealant application	SF MH MF	▼
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.0101.1f High-temperature application	SF MH MF	▼

View Sub-Topic:  
General Air Sealing

## STATE FIELD GUIDES

Alongside the SWS, each state develops its own field guides. These are comprehensive manuals outlining state-specific work quality expectations and installation procedures for Weatherization Assistance Program measures. These guides are updated every five years. They must meet or exceed SWS standards and be approved by the DOE before implementation. ***For state-specific information, it's crucial to consult with state or local weatherization administrators in your area. They provide region-specific guidance and ensure compliance with local regulations.***

Visit Green Workforce Connect to Find Weatherization Contacts in Your Area

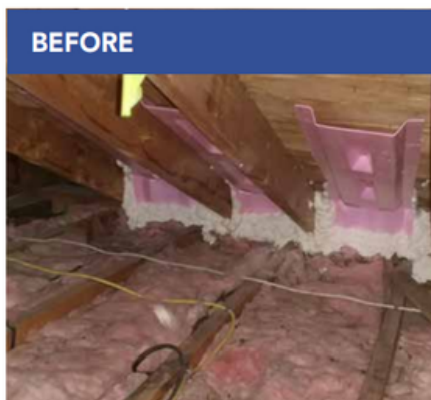


**Weatherization Installer Job Aids** provide step-by-step visual guides designed to support home energy professionals. They include easy-to-use checklists for verifying installation quality and are especially useful for training new staff. Organized by different areas of single-family and manufactured homes, such as attics and basements, these aids are also accessible through an **interactive 3D house** model. This tool serves both as a self-guided learning resource and as a structured training aid for organizations, complementing learning activities and demonstrations.

# Insulate an Unfloored Attic

Job Aid for Insulate Attic Floor and Pass Inspection First Time Badge

Aligns With Standard Work Specifications 4.0103.2, 4.0103.4, 4.0103.6



Ensure that attic prep work has been completed before starting installation (See 4-1 Prepare Attic Floor for Insulation).

1	Description / Comment
	Attic Insulation - Blown Fiberglass - R-38
	Attic Insulation - Blown Fiberglass - R-38

Verify against work order that correct insulation material is being installed.

R-Value @ 70°F	Initial Insulation Thickness (inches)	Minimum Settled Thickness (inches)	Depth Per 1000 Sq. Ft.	Net Coverage Sq. Ft. Per bag	Minimum Weight Per Sq. Ft.	Depth Per 1000 Sq. Ft.	Net Coverage Sq. Ft. Per bag
13	4.4	4.0	17.4	67.5	0.38	15.8	62.1
19	6.1	5.5	27.9	35.8	0.61	25.3	39.1
22	6.9	6.2	33.2	30.1	0.73	30.5	32.1
25	7.8	7.0	38.6	25.9	0.85	35.8	28.1
30	9.2	8.3	47.6	21.0	1.00	44.6	22.1
38	11.4	10.3	62.0	16.1	1.30	58.9	17.1
48	14.6	13.1	82.0	12.2	1.80	79.2	12.1

Verify insulation depth/density against manufacturer's coverage chart.

Understanding and utilizing the SWS, state-specific field guides, and other DOE resources is vital for ensuring quality and standardization in home energy upgrades. For more detailed guidelines and updates, refer to the **DOE's official page on Quality Work Plan SWS requirements**. For more comprehensive information about the specifications, you can also refer to the SWS site at [sws.nrel.gov](https://sws.nrel.gov) and the Weatherization Installer Job Aids at the DOE **Weatherization Installer Job Aids and Interactive 3D Houses** webpage.