

Liquid Foam

Liquid-foam installation is easy compared to other materials to accomplish the same air sealing tasks. However, cleanup is difficult enough that you probably don't want to clean up multiple times on the same job. Instead identify all the spots needing foam application, make a list, and foam them one after another.

For all its convenience, liquid foam's durability as an air seal is questionable. Cracks in the foam tend to occur at cracks in the air-sealed material.

One-Part Foam

This gap filler has tenacious adhesion. One-part foam is best applied with a foam gun rather than the disposable cans. Cleanup is difficult if you're careless. When applied skillfully into gaps, one-part foam reduces air leakage, thermal bridging, and air convection. One-part foam isn't effective or easy to apply to gaps over about one inch or to bottomless gaps. This product can leave small air leaks because it cracks when the materials around it move or shift.

Two-Part Foam

Good for bridging gaps larger than one inch, this product is also known as low-density spray polyurethane foam (SPF). Two-part foam is popular for use with rigid patching materials to seal large openings. Cut foam board to as closely as possible around obstacles and fill the edges with the two-part foam. Two-part foam should be sprayed to at least an inch of thickness when it serves as an adhesive for foamboard patches over large holes for strength.

Foam Construction Adhesive

Polyurethane foam dispensed from foam guns is an excellent adhesive for joining many kinds of building materials. Foam

adhesive works well for joining foam sheets together into thick slabs for vertical access doors and attic hatches.



One-part foam: A contractor uses an applicator gun to seal spaces between framing members and around windows.



Two-part foam: A contractor air-seals around an attic hatch dam with two-part spray foam.