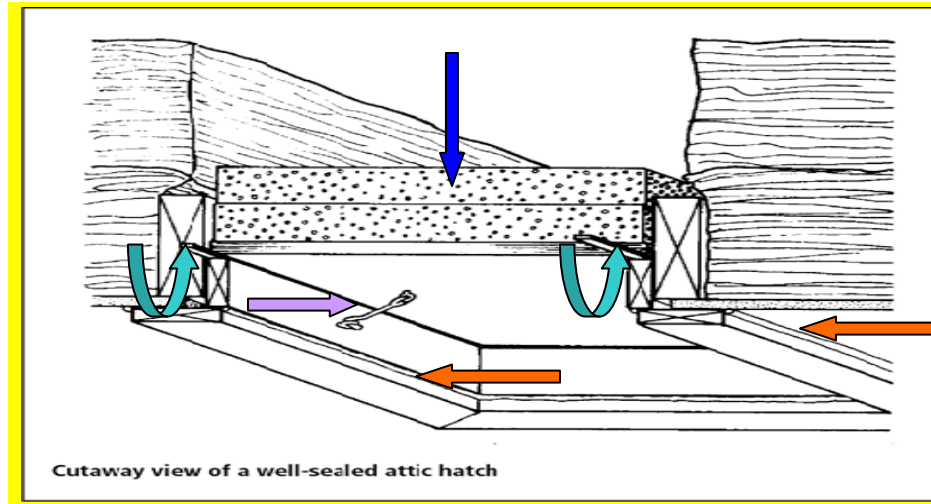


## HOME TIPS: Your Attic Access



(photo from Natural Resources Canada)

During this recent cold snap, I have been seeing many issues with attics. So I thought that I would address **one** of the simplest, yet most overlooked aspects of the home; the Attic Access. Inadequately sealed attic accesses can actually lead to mould around the attic access area in some cases.

Your attic access is one of the larger sources of heat loss in your home. This is because minimum standards are inadequate when it comes to properly sealing the attic access. Most people can perform this little improvement themselves, with a cost for materials of less than \$40.00. The following steps are color coded to match the arrows in the above diagram.

**Step 1:** Caulk the trim around your attic hatch. Use a good quality caulking which is paintable, flexible, and is mildew resistant (such as DAP Dynaflex 230).

**Step 2:** Apply several layers of rigid blue foam insulation to the top side of the attic access panel. This product comes in sheets approximately 3 inches thick. Cut this rigid foam to fit the top side of the access panel and secure the foam to the panel and each layer with an approved foam board adhesive (such as LePages PL 300).

**Step 3:** Apply ¼ inch closed cell foam weather stripping tape to the top side of the frame that the access panel rests on.

**Step 4:** Install some sort of latch mechanism to hold the access panel firmly against the weather stripping.

**Step 5:** Be proud that you have taken yet another step to improve the efficiency of your home and help reduce your energy costs.

I suggest that you to copy and paste the following link into your web browser (maybe even keep it in your 'favourites' list): [http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/keep\\_heat\\_in/](http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/keep_heat_in/) . This Natural Resources Canada website is an excellent resource which can answer many of your questions, and aid you in making your house more energy efficient.

This is a task which requires low to medium skill. If you are not comfortable on ladders, or do not feel that you have the ability, required skills, or tools to complete this task, then **DO NOT ATTEMPT** this. You are better off to hire a skilled professional for this job. Remember, you are better off to be safe, and have a quality finished product.

If you do not wish to receive anymore "HOME TIPS" please reply with **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject field.