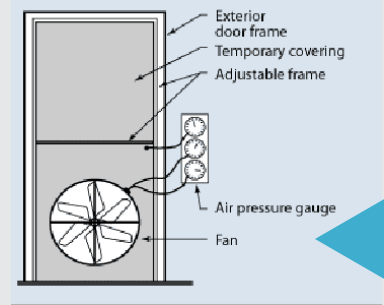


BLOWER DOOR TESTING

What Does a Blower Door Test Indicate?



Air flowing in and out of a home can cause lots of problems. Air leakage can account for the 30 to 50 percent of the heat loss in some homes. This is one reason why Renaissance Homes conducts a blower door test through a professional energy auditor upon completion of every home. It helps to determine the home's tightness, reduce energy consumption due to air leakage, avoid moisture condensation problems, avoid uncomfortable drafts caused by cold air drifting in from the outdoors and make sure that the homes air quality isn't too contaminated by air pollution.

How does it work?

A blower door is a powerful fan that mounts into the frame of an exterior door. The fan pulls air out of the house, lowering the air pressure inside. The higher outside air pressure then flows in through all unsealed cracks and openings. The auditors may use a smoke pencil to detect air leaks. These tests determine the air infiltration rate of a building. Blower doors consist of a frame and flexible panel that fits in a doorway, a variable-speed fan, a pressure gauge to measure the pressure differences inside and outside the home, and an airflow manometer and hoses for measuring airflow.



THE FRONT DOOR IS PREPARED FOR A BLOWER DOOR TEST

What is an Energy Performance Score?

This blower door test is just one component of the cumulative test results that make up an Energy Performance Score from Energy Trust of Oregon. This performance score measures and rates the energy consumption & carbon emissions of a home. The lower the score, the better. A low EPD score identifies a home as energy efficient with a smaller carbon footprint and lower monthly energy costs. An EPS can range from zero to 200 - zero being the most energy efficient and 200 being the least. It's an easy way to compare newly built homes based on energy efficiency and expected energy costs. Renaissance homeowners receive documentation of their EPS score and an estimate for monthly gas and electricity bills.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy; Energy Trust of Oregon

