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How to draught proof an old window, or door.

This method seems to have been invented by English Heritage, at least that's where we found it first.

The Problem:

Old houses have old windows that don't fit well, many have warped casements and uneven gaps. The cold wind blows through. We react to draughts by turning up the heating, as nothing feels colder than cold air down the back of the neck!

The various foam strips, strange rubber sections and the like sold by the DIY outlets generally fail to stick to the old paintwork, and if they do, rarely fill the uneven gaps, or make windows and doors difficult to close, or even to open!

The Solution:

Silicone bath sealant! Designed to stick to many types of shiny surfaces and fill gaps, the various silicone based sealants are ideal ways of filling the gaps between window, or door, and frame... but we want to open them again.

So we also need vaseline! - Silicone sealant sticks to most things, but not vaseline.

The Method:

Clean the window casement and frame, removing all loose paint, wet bits and mouldy bits, dry thoroughly.

Rub vaseline generously onto the opening casement along all edges. Shut the window, and fill the gap with silicone bath sealant, smoothing off with a wet finger. Leave 24 hrs, then open the window. If you got the vaseline right, the window will open again, leaving a seal made of silicone that exactly fills that uneven gap.

Turn the heating down a degree and start thinking of what you're going to spend the money you have saved on.