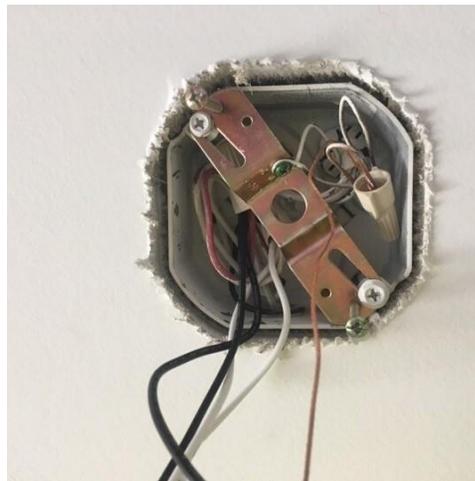


Whole-home air sealing is a critical part of qualifying for the highest rebate incentives offered through the Duke Energy Progress Residential New Construction (RNC) Program. While most air sealing must be completed before drywall is installed, there are several areas to focus between installing drywall and completing trim out. In homes with vented attics, any hole or gap in ceiling drywall must be sealed to prevent air from entering during a blower door test. Listed below are post-drywall air sealing areas that are commonly overlooked in new homes:

1. HVAC Supply Boots and Return Boxes



3. Flush Mount Lighting, Fans, and Smoke Detectors



2. Bathroom Exhaust Fans



4. Recessed 'Can' Lighting



These areas are often neglected because it is unclear which subcontractor is responsible for doing the work. To avoid this problem, assign the entire task of post-drywall air sealing to a specific subcontractor in their scope of work. Instead of making each trade responsible to caulk around drywall penetrations during trim out, have the painter or the drywall installer do the air sealing all at once. This method gives the site supervisor a single trade to hold accountable for the work.