



**Ken  
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*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

## Fall Tasks and More

As heating season approaches there are always many tasks homeowners must do to prepare. Usually there are enough things that **MUST** be done to cause some things that **SHOULD** be done to get put off or ignored. Heating system maintenance is something that is best done by a professional and it deserves to be on the list. Replacing the air filter in your furnace is a task of homeownership and should never be delayed because the negative consequences of ignoring it are not always obvious but they are serious. Once all of the usual tasks are completed, there are some things you can do that take only a few hours or a weekend. Preventing air leakage into the basement is well worth a Saturday afternoon. The materials available today at the home centers used to be something only a professional had access to. Not because they are expensive or need special training to use but because not enough customers would purchase them a few years ago. A foam sealing gun is one of my favorite tools for airsealing. It will apply a pinpoint line in a small crack or it can fill a half inch gap or more. It uses replaceable cans that will last for months on the gun and can be closed when finished and kept for later with no clogging or mess. This is much different than the cans with the straw on them that make a huge mess. There are 2 kinds of foam you can use. One is softer when it sets and won't push window and door jams so much that it makes them tight. But if you are working in a basement and trying to seal the miles of small gaps where air comes in, you can use the standard foam. Window and door will work fine for everything though so don't worry. As a general rule, every place where wood meets wood or wood meets concrete on the perimeter of the basement is a potential leakage source. If you see daylight you found a real good one but every other one probably leaks too. Depending on the age of the home the places that leak can look different but once you know where to look, you can't go wrong by sealing cracks and gaps. I could spend a whole day explaining techniques and methods but if you get a good flashlight and explore the basement perimeter, you'll learn pretty fast. Wherever you see cobwebs is near an air leak. Spiders love fresh air. More tips in upcoming articles.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email [Ken@FieldsService.com](mailto:Ken@FieldsService.com)

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