

The **Standard Work Specifications (SWS)** are industry-defined guidelines that set uniform expectations for quality home performance work.

The SWS were developed in a transparent industry process, synthesizing the expertise of the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the home performance industry.

The SWS are available immediately and at no cost for adoption by your contractors and programs via the **SWS Online Tool**.

Benefits include:

- Less callbacks
- Ensures all work is being done the same way/right way
- Supported by the U.S. Department of Energy
 - Standards are updated as needed to reflect best practices and latest technologies in the field.
- Can be used to generate energy audits, scopes of work, quality control reports, field guides, and training materials.
 - The **SWS Field Guide template** allows users to create step-by-step guides for implementing a vast array of weatherization measures, including the necessary tools and materials, illustrated instructions, before/after photos, and additional notes.
- Accessible via a computer, tablet, and/or phone.

sws.nrel.gov

Air Sealing > Attics > Dropped Ceilings and Soffits

Dropped Ceilings 3.1003.4d Joint seal

Specification(s):

Continuous seal will be installed around seams, cracks, joints, edges, penetrations, and connections

Pre-fabricated units may be used when meeting the desired outcome



Before

Dropped soffits need to be capped and sealed to prevent leakage

Objective(s):

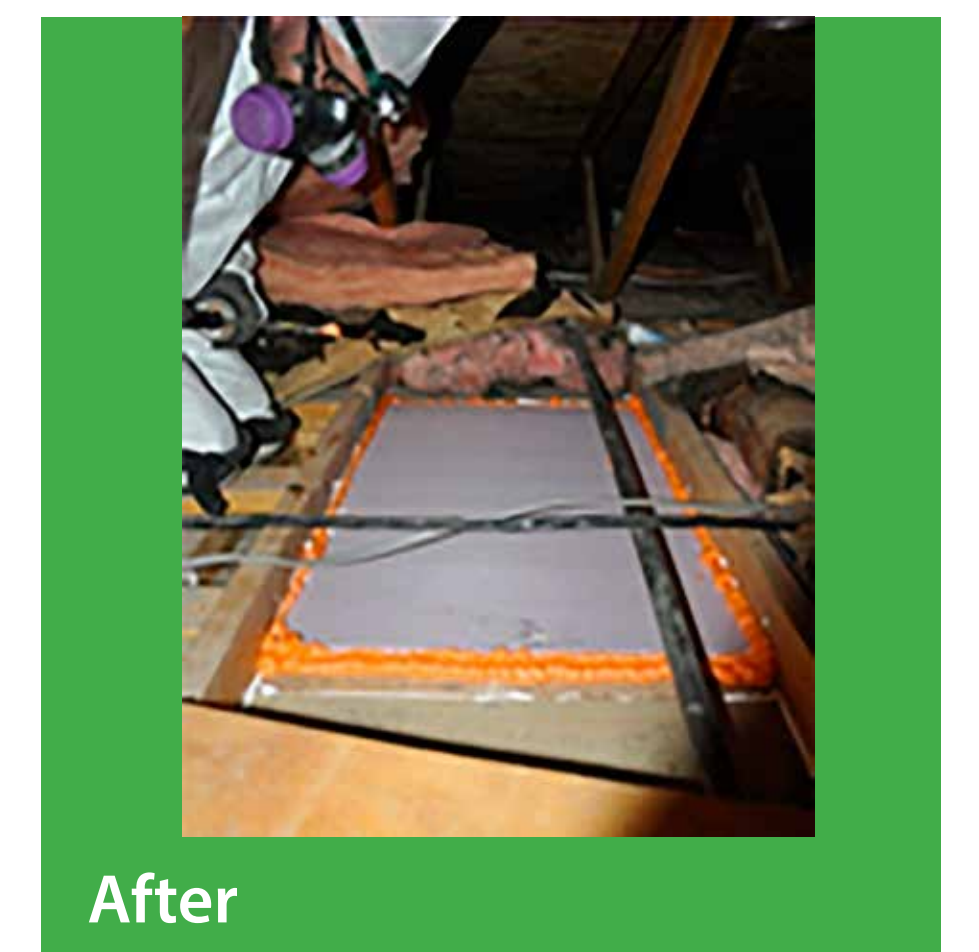
Provide airtight, durable seal that does not move, bend or sag

Tools:

1. Spray foam gun
2. Caulk gun

Materials:

1. Spray foam
2. Caulk sealant



After

Air Sealing > Attics > Dropped Ceilings and Soffits

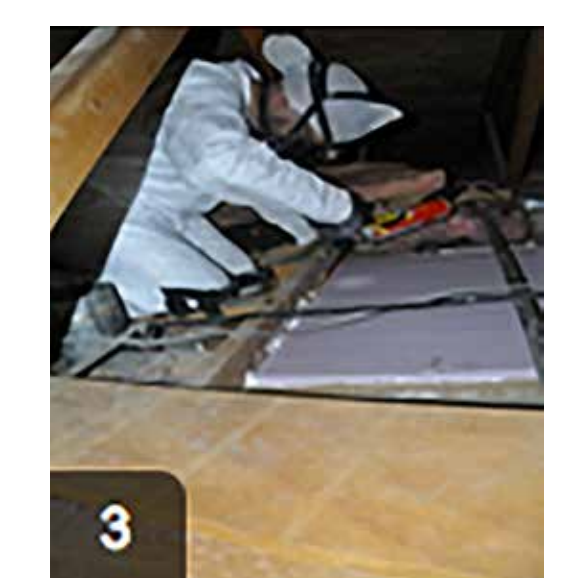
Dropped Ceilings 3.1003.4d Joint seal



1
Caulk surrounding surfaces before setting cap in place



2
Sealant should extend along surround joist and into seams at top plates



3
Once cap is set, apply sealant remaining gaps and along all seams