

Once all operable flue vents are removed from any chimney, an opportunity exists to seal off the chimney from the house. Follow the steps below to reduce whole-house heat loss and help save energy. A Focus on Energy representative may conduct a site visit to verify the protocol has been met.

Interior Section (Required)

1. After removing abandoned vent pipe(s), clean all debris and loose particles from the hole opening(s) to ensure a tight seal can be made. Measure the opening and choose an appropriate galvanized metal plug to be inserted into the opening. Make sure the plug has a crimped end to allow for easier installation. (An alternative method is to seal the flue opening with mortar to create a 100% seal).
2. Tap the plug into the opening with a hammer being careful not to damage it.
3. Clean again around the edge where the chimney and plug meet making a clean surface.
4. Apply a bead of caulk around the outer edge of the metal plug to create an air tight seal.
5. Inspect all four sides of the chimney as applicable, checking for other flues and clean-out. If insufficiently addressed, follow steps 1 through 3.
6. Inspect the sub-floor immediately surrounding the chimney. Check for chase-ways that could lead directly into the attic. Seal with spray foam, sheet metal or duct board as needed.
7. In older homes, especially rural areas where wood stoves may have been employed, inspect for flue openings that are covered by wall paper, hangings, etc. on all floors and follow steps above as needed.
8. Some homes will have multiple chimneys. Inspect for this and follow protocol as needed.

Exterior Section (Optional)

1. Measure the rough opening to determine size of vent opening.
2. Fabricate a sheet metal cap with a minimum of 1" lip bent to 90 degrees.
3. Clear all loose material from top of vent, apply an adhesive caulk to top edge of chimney opening and press the cap firmly in place.
4. For metal or B-vent chimneys, install a flue plug and seal to prevent moisture intrusion.

Alternative Option

Another option is to completely remove your chimney which would qualify the homeowner for the flue closure reward.