

The crack method is generally regarded as being more accurate than the purely arbitrary air change method, provided the variables entering into the crack method, such as crack width and clearance, can be properly evaluated.

Crack Method

The crack method is based on known air leakage factors for various types of windows and widths of crack and clearance. The wind velocity and length of crack are also considered when the crack method is employed. The amount of infiltration for various types of windows is given in Table 2.² The fit of double-hung wood windows is determined by crack and clearance. Crack thickness is equivalent to one-half the difference between the inside window frame dimension and the outside sash width. The difference between the width of the window frame guide and the sash thickness is considered as the clearance. The length of the perimeter

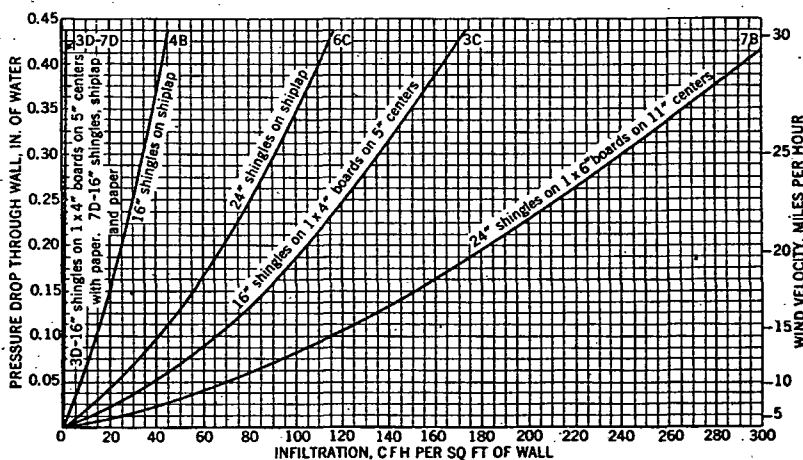


FIG. 1. INFILTRATION THROUGH VARIOUS TYPES OF SHINGLE CONSTRUCTION

opening or crack for a double-hung window is equal to three times the width plus two times the height, or in other words, it is the outer sash perimeter length plus the meeting rail length. Not all the window crack in any given room is necessarily used in estimating the infiltration heat loss by the crack method. The length of crack to be selected in any given case depends on the number of exposed sides as explained in Chapter 6.

Values of leakage shown in Table 2 for the average double-hung wood window were determined by setting the average measured crack and

²A.S.H.V.E. RESEARCH REPORTS No. 686—Air Leakage, by F. C. Houghten and C. C. Schrader (A.S.H.V.E. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 30, 1924, p. 105). No. 704—Air Leakage Around Window Openings, by C. C. Schrader (A.S.H.V.E. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 30, 1924, p. 313). No. 803—Air Leakage on Metal Windows in a Modern Office Building, by F. C. Houghten and M. E. O'Connell (A.S.H.V.E. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 34, 1928, p. 321). No. 815—Air Leakage Through a Pivoted Metal Window, by F. C. Houghten and M. E. O'Connell (A.S.H.V.E. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 34, 1928, p. 519). No. 817—Effect of Frame Calking and Storm Sash on Infiltration Around and Through Windows, by W. M. Richtmann and C. Braatz (A.S.H.V.E. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 34, 1928, p. 547). No. 909—Air Infiltration Through Double-Hung Wood Windows, by G. L. Larson, D. W. Nelson and R. W. Kubasta (A.S.H.V.E. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 37, 1931, p. 571). The Weathertightness of Rolled Section Steel Windows, by J. E. Emswiler and W. C. Randall (A.S.H.V.E. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 34, 1928, p. 527). Pressure Differences Across Windows in Relation to Wind Velocity, by J. E. Emswiler and W. C. Randall (A.S.H.V.E. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 36, 1930, p. 83). Air Infiltration Through Steel Framed Windows, by D. O. Rusk, V. H. Cherry and L. Boelter (A.S.H.V.E. TRANSACTIONS, Vol. 39, 1933, p. 169).

TABLE 2. INFILTRATION THROUGH WINDOWS

Expressed in Cubic Feet per Foot of Crack per Hour

TYPE OF WINDOW	REMARKS	WIND VELOCITY, MILES PER HOUR					
		5	10	15	20	25	30
Double-Hung Wood Sash Windows (Unlocked)	Around frame in masonry wall—not calked ^b	3	8	14	20	27	35
	Around frame in masonry wall—calked ^b	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Around frame in wood frame construction ^b	2	6	11	17	23	30
	Total for average window, non-weatherstripped, $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. crack and $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. clearance. ^c Includes wood frame leakage ^d	7	21	39	59	80	104
	Ditto, weatherstripped ^d	4	13	24	36	49	63
	Total for poorly fitted window, non-weatherstripped, $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. crack and $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. clearance. ^e Includes wood frame leakage ^d	27	69	111	154	199	249
	Ditto, weatherstripped ^d	6	19	34	51	71	92
Double-Hung Metal Windows ^f	Non-weatherstripped, locked	20	45	70	96	125	154
	Non-weatherstripped, unlocked	20	47	74	104	137	170
	Weatherstripped, unlocked	6	19	32	46	60	76
Rolled Section Steel Sash Windows ^g	Industrial pivoted, $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. cracks	52	108	176	244	304	372
	Architectural projected, $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. crack ^h	15	36	62	86	112	139
	Architectural projected, $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. crack ^h	20	52	88	116	152	182
	Residential casement, $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. crack ⁱ	6	18	33	47	60	74
	Residential casement, $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. crack ⁱ	14	32	52	76	100	128
	Heavy casement section, projected, $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. crack ^j	3	10	18	26	36	48
	Heavy casement section, projected $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. crack ^j	8	24	38	54	72	92
Hollow Metal, vertically pivoted window ^f		30	88	145	186	221	242

^aThe values given in this table, with the exception of those for double-hung and hollow metal windows, are 20 per cent less than test values to allow for building up of pressure in rooms, and are based on test data reported in the papers listed in chapter footnotes.

^bThe values given for frame leakage are per foot of sash perimeter as determined for double-hung wood windows. Some of the frame leakage in masonry walls originates in the brick wall itself and cannot be prevented by calking. For the additional reason that calking is not done perfectly and deteriorates with time, it is considered advisable to choose the masonry frame leakage values for calked frames as the average determined by the calked and non-calked tests.

^cThe fit of the average double-hung wood window was determined as $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. crack and $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. clearance by measurements on approximately 600 windows under heating season conditions.

^dThe values given are the totals for the window opening per foot of sash perimeter and include frame leakage and so-called elsewhere leakage. The frame leakage values included are for wood frame construction but apply as well to masonry construction assuming a 50 per cent efficiency of frame calking.

^eA $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. crack and clearance represent a poorly fitted window, much poorer than average.

^fWindows tested in place in building.

^gIndustrial pivoted window generally used in industrial buildings. Ventilators horizontally pivoted at center or slightly above, lower part swinging out.

^hArchitecturally projected made of same sections as industrial pivoted except that outside framing member is heavier, and it has refinements in weathering and hardware. Used in semi-monumental buildings such as schools. Ventilators swing in or out and are balanced on side arms. $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. crack is obtainable in the best practice of manufacture and installation, $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. crack considered to represent average practice.

ⁱOf same design and section shapes as so-called heavy section casement but of lighter weight. $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. crack is obtainable in the best practice of manufacture and installation, $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. crack considered to represent average practice.

^jMade of heavy sections. Ventilators swing in or out and stay set at any degree of opening. $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. crack is obtainable in the best practice of manufacture and installation, $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. crack considered to represent average practice.

^kWith reasonable care in installation, leakage at contacts where windows are attached to steel framework and at mullions is negligible. With $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. crack, representing poor installation, leakage at contact with steel framework is about one-third, and at mullions about one-sixth of that given for industrial pivoted windows in the table.