Table 1 .... Infiltration Through Walls[a]

Expressed in cubic feet per (square foot) (hour)

Type of Wall		Wind Velocity, Miles per Hour					
		5	10	15	20	25	30
Brick Wall[b]							
8½ in.	Plain	2	4	8	12	19	23
	Plastered[c]	0.02	0.04	0.07	0.11	0.16	0.24
13 in.	Plain	1	4	7	12	16	21
	Plastered[c]	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.10
	Plastered[d]	0.03	0.10	0.21	0.36	0.53	0.72
Frame Wall, lath and plaster[e]		0.03	0.07	0.13	0.18	0.23	0.26

[a] The values given in this table are 20 percent 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.

[b] Constructed of porous brick and lime mortar—workmanship poor.

[c] Two coats prepared gypsum plaster on brick.

[d] Furring, lath, and two coats prepared gypsum plaster on brick.

[e] Wall construction: bevel siding painted or cedar shingles, sheathing, building paper, wood lath, and three coats gypsum plaster.

office building, with imperfect sealing of plaster at the baseboards of the rooms. With perfect sealing the range is from 0.5 to 2.7 percent; or a practically negligible quantity, which indicates the importance of good workmanship for proper sealing at the baseboard. It will be noted from Table 1 that the infiltration through properly plastered walls can be neglected.

The value of building paper, when applied between sheathing and shingles, is indicated by curve 3D-7D, Fig. 1, which represents the effect on outside construction only, without lath and plaster. The effectiveness of plaster properly applied is no justification for the use of low grade building paper, or of the poor construction of the wall containing it. Not only is it difficult to secure and maintain the full effectiveness of the plaster, but also it is highly desirable to have two points of high resistance to air flow with an air space between them. The infiltration indicated in Fig. 1 is that determined in the laboratory, and *should be multiplied by the factor* 0.80 to give proper working values.

Window and Door Leakage

There are two methods of estimating air leakage through window and door cracks, namely, (1) the crack method, and (2) the air change method. The crack method is generally regarded as being more accurate than the air change method, provided the variables, such as crack width and clearance, can be properly evaluated.

Crack Method

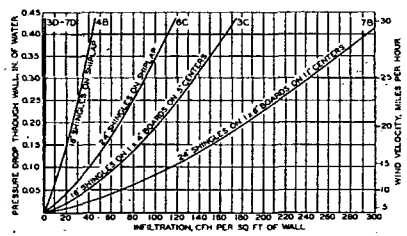
The crack method is based on known air leakage factors for various types of windows, and widths of crack and clearance. The wind velocity and length of crack are also considered when the crack method is employed. The amount of infiltration for various types of windows is given in Table 2.[a] The fit 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 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. All of the window crack in any given room is not 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 12.

Values of leakage shown in Table 2 for the average double-hung wood window were determined by using, on nine windows tested in the laboratory, the average measured crack and clearance of a large number of windows found in a field survey. In addition, the table gives figures for a poorly fitted window. All of the figures for double-hung wood windows are for the *unlocked* condition. Just how a window is closed, or fits when it is closed, has considerable influence on the leakage. The leakage will be high if the sash are short, if the meeting rail members are warped, or if the frame and sash are not fitted squarely to each other. It is possible to have a window with approximately the average crack and clearance that will have a leakage at least double that of the figures shown. Values for the average double-hung wood window in Table 2 are considered to be easily obtainable figures, provided the workmanship on the window is good. Should it be known that the windows under consideration are poorly fitted, the larger leakage values should be used. Locking a window generally decreases its leakage, but in some cases may push the meeting rail members apart and increase the leakage. On windows with large clearances, locking will usually reduce the leakage.

Wood casement windows may be assumed to have the same unit leakage as for the average double-hung wood window when properly fitted. Locking, a normal operation in the closing of this type of window, maintains the crack at a low value.

For a metal pivoted sash, the length of crack is the total perimeter of the movable or ventilating sections. Frame leakage on steel windows may be neglected when they are properly grouted with cement mortar into brick work or concrete. When they are not properly sealed, the linear feet of sash section in contact with steel work at mullions should be figured at 25 percent of the values given in Table 2 for industrial pivoted windows.

When storm sash are applied to well fitted windows, some reduction in infiltration is secured; the application of the sash provides an air space which reduces the heat transmission and helps prevent the frosting of the windows.[a] By applying storm sash to poorly fitted windows, a reduction in leakage of 50 percent may be obtained, the effect, so far as air leakage is concerned, being roughly equivalent to that obtained by the installation of weatherstrips.



3D-7D: 3-D-16 inch shingles on 1 x 4 inch boards on 5 inch centers with paper, 7-D-16 inch shingles, shiplap and paper.

Fig. 1 .... Infiltration Through Various Types of Shingle Construction

Door Leakage

Doors vary greatly in fit because of their large size and tendency to warp. For a well fitted door, the leakage values for a poorly fitted double-hung wood window may be used. If poorly fitted, twice this figure should be used. If weatherstripped, the values may be reduced one-half. A single door that is frequently opened, as might be the case in a store, should have a value applied three times that for a well fitted door. This extra allowance is for opening and closing losses, and is kept from being greater by the fact that doors are not used as much in the coldest and windiest weather.

The infiltration rate through swinging and revolving doors is generally a matter of judgment by the engineer making *cooling* load determinations. In the absence of adequate research data, the values given in Table 3 may be used to represent current engineering practice. Some tests of infiltration through swinging and revolving doors have been reported.[a] The dats in Table 3 are indicative of what might be expected in this connection, but it should be noted that Table 3 is based on a no-wind condition, and therefore is not directly applicable to *heating* design.

A wide range of infiltration rates would be expected for swinging doors because of variations in the indoor-outdoor pressure difference caused by wind, temperature differences, and the degree to which a heating or an air-conditioning

Table 2 .... Infiltration Through Windows

Expressed in cubic feet per foot of crack per hour[a]

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, 1/16-in. crack and 3/64-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, 3/32-in. crack and 3/32-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[h]	Industrial pivoted, 1/16-in. crack[g]	52	108	176	244	304	372
	Architectural projected, 1/32-in. crack[h]	15	36	62	86	112	139
	Architectural projected, 3/64-in. crack[h]	20	52	88	116	152	182
	Residential casement, 1/64-in. crack[i]	6	18	33	47	60	74
	Residential casement, 1/32-in. crack[i]	14	32	52	76	100	128
	Heavy casement section, projected, 1/64-in. crack[j]	3	10	18	26	36	48
	Heavy casement section, projected, 1/32-in. crack[j]	8	24	38	54	72	92
Hollow Metal, Vertically Pivoted Window[k]		30	88	145	186	221	242

[a] The values given in this table, with the exception of those for double-hung and hollow metal windows are 20 percent 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.

[b] The 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.

[c] The fit of the average double-hung wood window was determined as 1/16-in. crack and 3/64-in. clearance by measurements on approximately 600 windows under heating season conditions.

[d] The 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 percent efficiency of frame calking.

[e] A 3/32-in. crack and clearance represent a poorly fitted window, much poorer than average.

[f] Windows tested in place in building, so that no reduction from test values is necessary, as mentioned in footnote a.

[g] Industrial pivoted window generally used in industrial buildings. Ventilators horisontally pivoted at center or slightly above, lower part swinging out.

[h] Architecturally 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. 1/32-in. crack is obtainable in the best practice of manufacture and installation, 3/64-in. crack considered to represent average practice.

[i] Of same design and section shapes as so-called *heavy section casement*, but of lighter weight. 1/64-in. crack is obtainable in the best practice of manufacture and installation, 1/32-in. crack considered to represent average practice.

[j] Made of heavy sections. Ventilators swing in or out and stay set at any degree of opening. 1/64-in. crack is obtainable in the best practice of manufacture and installation, 1/32-in. crack considered to represent average practice. Known as Intermediate Windows by steel window manufacturers.

[k] With reasonable care in installation, leakage at contacts where windows are attached to steel framework and at mullions, is negligible. With 3/64-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.

[a] Heating, Piping and Air Conditioning, Vol. 6, p. 1, January, 1934.

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