

Why a Leading Luxury Builder Specifies DRAFTSTOP® 812

As a builder who makes energy efficiency a priority, Chris Frank has researched or tried most of the leading insulating and air sealing products. He knows the pros and cons of each and has settled on DAP® DRAFTSTOP® 812 for all of his homes.

Frank is owner at The Office of Horace Trumbauer, a luxury builder and remodeler with offices in Mars, Penn. and Philadelphia. The company prides itself on using its knowledge of building science to create award-winning green homes. Frank completed one of the first quad certified homes in the US, with LEED Platinum, NAHB Emerald Builders Challenge and Energy Star certifications.

Prior to 2012, the company's air-sealing crew had been using an open cell foam sealant. "It did the trick but once we understood the benefits of the DAP® product we made the switch and haven't looked back," says Frank. His crews use it around windows and doors, as well for other holes and cracks. "I want to make sure everything is perfect, so I give a few canisters of foam to two of my guys and they will take as much time as they need to seal the home," he says.

What benefits made Frank such a fan? The answer is that DRAFTSTOP® 812 addresses several drawbacks of other products.

- It's window and door friendly. "It's a low-expanding foam and low pressure, so it does not knock doors and windows out of plumb, as a high-expanding foam can."
- It adapts to frame movement. "Even though it's a closed cell foam, it stays flexible, which is unheard of." He says that some other foams harden and lose their grip over time, causing gaps to open up.
- It keeps unwanted moisture out. "If I take a humidity reader into the average home the highest humidity reading is going to be around windows and doors, thanks to breakdown of the seals around the window." DRAFTSTOP® 812 is impermeable, so it eliminates that worry.
- The applicator gun is made for pros. The ability to save installation time is important on any job. "DAP's applicator guns are a big plus in making the work go quickly"
- Cleanup is fast. "The cleaner for the application gun is effective and user-friendly."

Frank considers DRAFTSTOP® 812 a good complement to the foam insulation his company uses. He also likes that it comes from a manufacturer he has been doing business with for decades. "I have been using DAP products since I graduated from college in 1976 and started a painting business," he says. "When you have long



success with a particular company's products, you learn to trust them."

As part of the Spec Line, DRAFTSTOP® 812 makes it simple for builders to meet architect's specs, but it can work the other way around as well. "I tell the architects what we use, and they end up putting it in the specs," says Frank. "Use of this product is non-negotiable on our jobs." ■

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