



Simple Draft Stoppers

All you'll need is fabric (used will do), filling, and a needle and thread or sewing machine. Use firmly woven, sturdy material at least 8 inches wide (wider if you have a healthy gap to fill) and 2 to 3 inches longer than the width of the door. Fold the fabric in half lengthwise and sew the side to make a tube. Sew one end firmly closed, or gather the material with thread and then tie it closed tightly with ribbon or string.

The tube can be filled with sand, dry corn, beans, or rice. If you don't want to spend money to fill it though, you can either cut up rags or yarn scraps into small pieces to use for stuffing, or (better because of its insulating nature) use newspaper rolled to fit the tube. If you don't want to use newspaper or rags, remember that something rather heavy will keep the draft stopper in place better.

Another quick way to make a draft stopper: Cut the leg from worn jeans and stuff with anything heavy and stitch the open ends closed. Or roll newspaper up and push it to one side inside an old pillowcase. Roll the pillowcase from side to side and tie with yarn or string.

Double Duty Draft Stopper

If you need a draft stopper at a door that is used often, it's a real problem to remember to push it back against the door each time. The solution is fairly simple: Make two draft stoppers, then sew them together with a strip of fabric an inch or two wider than your door. It's easier to do this before you finish the draft stopper:

1. You'll need a piece of material as long as your door is wide plus 2 to 3 inches (for seams).
2. Cut the material as wide (at least 8 inches) as needed for one draft dodger, then add the depth of the door plus two inches, plus the width of another draft stopper - usually about 20 inches altogether.
3. Fold one long edge 4 inches in and sew down the edge, making a tube. If you need to visualize this, slip the material under the door and mark the places to be sewn with chalk or pins.
4. Fold the other long edge in 4 inches also, and sew down the edge. You should have the width of the door plus 2 inches worth of material between the two sewn edges.
5. Sew one end closed of each of the tubes you have created.
6. Fill with whatever you have chosen, as discussed above, and sew the open end.
7. This will give you two draft stoppers in one piece. You then slide them one on either side of the door with the extra material under the door. The double draft stopper moves with the door when it's opened and closed.

Another way to keep a draft stopper in place is to make a single one, then sew a strip of velcro the length of it. Attach (use the self sticking kind) the other side of the velcro along the bottom edge of the door, and attach the stopper to it. Be *sure* to test the placement first as it doesn't touch door exactly where it looks as if it would. Velcro won't last as long as a double draft dodger, but it's faster to make.

