

Ceiling-fan and box-fan airflow strategy

FIX-012 / REV A / 2026.09.01

The recovered conversation identifies the unused attic/whole-house fan as a major heat-leak path. The recommended approach is a removable insulated cap made from 2-inch R-10 foam board, sized a few inches beyond the opening, with compatible foil HVAC or foam-board tape and weatherstripping around the contact edge. The cap must remain removable and the fan must be unable to start while covered.

STATUS	Recovered/Partial
CLASSIFICATION	FIX
MATERIAL	TROUBLESHOOTING
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / RECOVERED/PARTIAL
CATEGORY	Repairs / Technology
RECORD TYPE	troubleshooting

TECHNICAL NOTES

Recovered attic-fan heat-barrier plan for an unused whole-house fan, plus an airflow caution for box fans near supply registers.

GOAL

Reduce afternoon heat entering through an unused attic fan without permanently altering the opening or creating a fan-start hazard.

EQUIPMENT

- 2-inch R-10 foam board
- Compatible foil HVAC or foam-board tape
- Weatherstripping
- Tape measure and straightedge
- Utility knife used with normal cutting precautions

MATERIALS

- 2-inch R-10 rigid foam board
- Foam-board or foil HVAC tape
- Removable weatherstripping

METHOD / STEPS

1. Measure the fan opening and note whether the fan housing rises above the attic floor.
2. Cut a removable foam-board panel a few inches larger than the opening on all four sides.
3. Build up the panel into a shallow insulated box/cap if the fan housing needs clearance.
4. Seal foam-board seams with compatible foil HVAC or foam-board tape.
5. Add weatherstripping around the contact edge so the cap seats against the framing or ceiling surface.
6. Verify the fan cannot be accidentally energized while the cap is installed.
7. Keep the cover removable and record the final dimensions for the next revision.

RESULT / WHERE THIS STANDS

Recovered practical barrier plan; final dimensions and fit remain the next field check.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- If the cap rocks or leaks air, check the framing plane and improve the weatherstripping rather than permanently gluing it down.
- If the fan housing projects above the floor, use a box/cap shape instead of forcing a flat panel against it.
- Do not treat a barrier as a substitute for correcting a fan that can still be switched on while covered.
- Box fans placed directly on supply registers may disturb the intended duct airflow; remove them during the comparison test.

SAFETY / LIMITATIONS

- Confirm the unused fan cannot start before covering it.
- Use normal cutting and attic-access precautions; avoid contact with energized wiring.
- Use materials compatible with the foam board and keep the cap removable for inspection.

SPECIFICATION

BARRIER	Removable 2-inch R-10 foam-board cap
SEAL	Compatible foil HVAC/foam-board tape
CONTACT EDGE	Weatherstripping

FIT	A few inches beyond the opening on all sides
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STATUS	Recovered plan / dimensions still to verify
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DEVELOPMENT HISTORY

2026.09.06 / ARCHIVE-01

Recovered and summarized from the supplied Attic Fan Heat Barrier conversation; raw transcript remains unpublished.

2026.09.01 / Rev A

Initial manifest record created from the topic index.

RELEASED MATERIAL / SOURCE LINKS

fix-012-public-summary.txt

PUBLIC SUMMARY / RECOVERED CONVERSATION

<https://u225x.com/downloads/manifest-records/fix-012-public-summary.txt>

CONNECTED RECORDS

FIX-011

<https://u225x.com/record/FIX-011>

RETURN TO THE LIVING RECORD

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This PDF preserves the public notes at this revision. Visit the record for updates and attached images.

<https://u225x.com/record/FIX-012>