



Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE OPINION NO. 21-09

CODE: 2018 Washington State Energy Code-Residential

SECTION: R402.4.2, Fireplaces (Air leakage)

QUESTION 1: How tight must the fireplace damper be? Is there a standard to apply? Aren't all dampers already tight? If a customer uses any off the shelf damper and claims it's already tight fitting, how do you determine compliance?

ANSWER: **There are no standards referenced in the code for the testing of flue dampers. The intent of the damper is to prevent the loss of conditioned air when the fireplace is not in use. Thus, the intent is that the flue be relatively air tight. If the damper is not tight fitting, there will also be problems passing the air leakage testing in Section R402.4.1.2.**

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: San Juan County