

## **Furnace Duct Systems**

Something many of us do not consider when thinking of our furnace is the ducting system. Did you know that an older ducting system can lose as much as 25% or more of the heat going to your home. That means that in addition to heating your home you are also making it nice and cozy for the small critters living under the house and in the attic!

Over the years furnace ducts can become disconnected because of deteriorated seam tape, rodents who chew holes in the ducts and any number of other causes. The older seam tape was generally "DUCT" tape, which ironically is no longer used for ducts. Instead, the code now requires a particular type of seam tape which does not deteriorate with age as much as duct tape (this is one of those little details that us home inspector types typically inspect for.)

The good news is that there is a test that you can have done on your ducting system, called a "TIGHT DUCT TEST". It does just what the name implies, it measures the amount of heat loss which occurs as the air travels through your ducting system, and pinpoints where the loss is. This test is now required by law for new homes and when heating or air conditioning components are replaced in an existing home, but it is also available to anyone curious about the condition of their ducts. To find one of these companies, call your local heating and air conditioning contractor and ask for their recommendation to a "HERS Rated" tight duct testing company. HER stands for Home Energy Rating. The fee for this service is usually between \$300 and \$400, and does not include any repairs that may be needed in your system.