

Product at work

Weatherstripping shuts the door on heat loss at Air Station

WHEN YOU CONSIDER that a $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. gap under an average-size door exchanges more than 1,000 Cu. ft. of air an hour, then you can begin to understand the magnitude of the problem facing officials at the Patuxent Naval Air Station in Patuxent River, Md. Gaps around the large hangar doors there were sending energy costs soaring during the winter months. The canvas and rubber insulation that was being used to fill the cracks proved ineffective because it wore out too quickly.

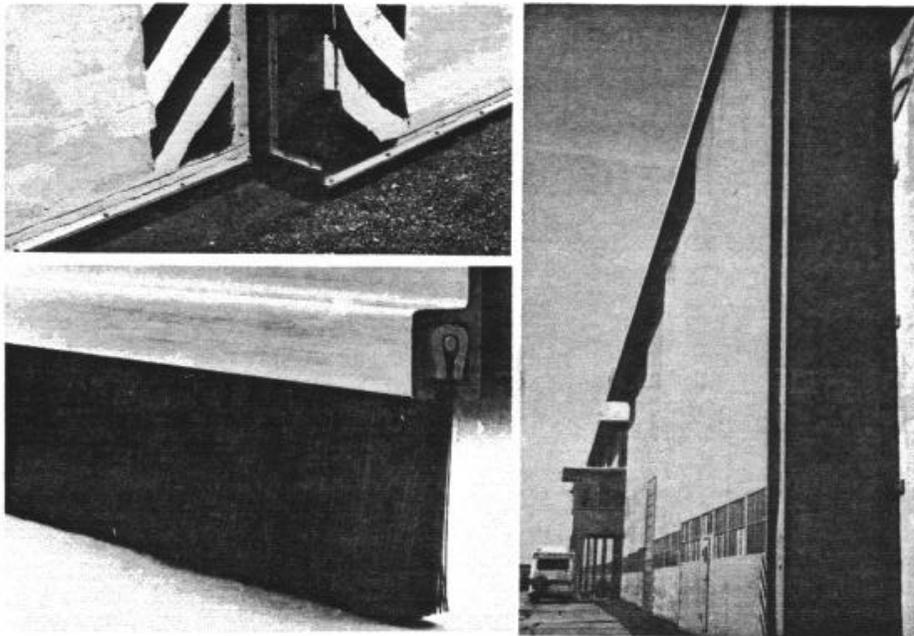
The Air Station solved its energy problem 2 years ago when workers installed Therm-L-Brush weatherstripping (manufacturer: **Sealeze Corp.**, Richmond, Va.). The brush seal consists of strong, flexible nylon bristles held together securely in a galvanized-steel channel. The bristles move easily in any direction and conform to any surface to eliminate drafts and keep out rain, snow, dust, insects, and rodents.

As soon as the weatherstripping was attached, workers in the hangar noticed an immediate

improvement. The heaters which once ran continually began operating with on and off cycles. In fact, the brush seal helped Patuxent achieve the second highest energy savings in the Navy during 1980.

There have been other advantages, too. After 18 months, Therm-L-Brush has shown no sign of wear; unlike rubber and foam insulation, it doesn't crack or deteriorate in bad weather. It's also easy to install on virtually any kind of door, including overhead (sectional and corrugated), sliding, swinging, and automatic. The bristles even compensate for doors which are misaligned or affected by wind deflection.

In addition to the hangars, the Air Station uses Therm-L-Brush on its office buildings and anywhere else energy is escaping. The weatherstripping comes in standard 10-ft. lengths, but the manufacturer will supply custom brush heights and flanged fittings to suit almost any application.



BIG BRUSHOFF. Two years ago, Patuxent Naval Air Station Installed brush seal around the gaps of Its large hangar doors (right and upper left) to reduce heat loss. The weatherstripping consists of flexible nylon bristles (lower left) that won't crack.

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