

Pressure testing of the airtightness of buildings and sound level measurement with respect to the surroundings – sub-project under Technology procurement for heat recovery systems in existing apartment blocks.

Background

Bengt Bergqvist of Energianalys has carried out air permeability tests and sound measurements in apartment blocks for Åsa Wahlström of CIT Energy Management.

Airtightness tests

The air permeability tests were performed in accordance with Swedish Standard SS-EN 13829 during March and April 2010 in a total of 16 apartments in nine apartment blocks.

Air inlet vents, air exhaust vents and cooker hood ducts were sealed with plastic and tape before the tests began. Traps in floor gullies, washbasins, WC-pans and sinks were filled with water.

In two apartments which had an open fireplace, measurements were performed both with the fireplace unsealed but with the damper closed and with the fireplace sealed and the damper closed.



Figure 1. The pressure testing fan was installed in the balcony door opening or in the front door opening. The speed of the fan was adjusted to maintain a negative pressure of -50 Pa and the air flow across the inlet nozzle was measured.

When the leakage air flow had been determined, a systematic search of all rooms was undertaken to locate leaks in the shell of the building, in partition walls between apartments and in floors.



Figures 2a and 2b. The leakage flows through the shell were located and documented with a FLIR i50 thermal imaging camera.





Figure 3. Leakage flows from neighbouring apartments and other areas were located by feeling with a hand and with smoke bottles (RFA) and air velocity meters (TSI).

Sound level measurements

Sound level measurements with respect to the surroundings were performed in order to determine the degree of sound insulation of the external walls. These tests comprised sound level measurement in rooms with a balcony and outdoors on the balcony. Measurements were carried out in accordance with SS 025267, with and without weighting filters: A-, B- and C-filters.

Unwanted sources of noise, such as wall clocks were located and stopped before measurements were made. Measurement could then proceed.



Figure 4. Sound level meter, Quest model 155.

Measuring equipment

"Minneapolis blower door", Model 4, pressure testing equipment. Pressure/air velocity meter TSI Model 8360-M-S VelociCalc, serial no. 409062. Swema 3000 pressure gauge/air velocity meter with probe SWA 31. Quest precision sound level meter Model 155 with octave band filter.



Tested apartment blocks

Airtightness tests and sound measurements were performed on the following properties and apartments.

Fastighetsägare	Adress	Täthets- provning	Ljud- mätning
Helsingborgshem	Rosenbergsgatan 24 A (apartment 1)	X	X
Helsingborgshem	Rosenbergsgatan 24 A (apartment 2)	Х	-
Hyresbostäder i Växjö	Sandviksvägen 38 B (apartment 1)	Х	Х
Hyresbostäder i Växjö	Sandviksvägen 38 B (apartment 2)	Х	Х
Huge Fastigheter	Kommunalvägen 20 (apartment 1)	Х	Х
Huge Fastigheter	Kommunalvägen 20 (apartment 2)	Х	Х
Stockholmshem	Åmänningevägen 64	Х	-
Stockholmshem	Åmänningevägen 68	Х	Х
Stockholmshem	Skattungsvägen 23	Х	Х
Familjebostäder	Spångavägen 72 (apartment 1)	Х	-
Familjebostäder	Spångavägen 72 (apartment 2)	Х	Х
Familjebostäder	Spångavägen 74	Х	Х
Familjebostäder	Saltvägen 10 (apartment 1)	Х	Х
Familjebostäder	Saltvägen 10 (apartment 2)	Х	Х
Örebrobostäder	Tallrisvägen 43 L	Х	Х
Örebrobostäder	Granrisvägen 1G	Х	Х

Results

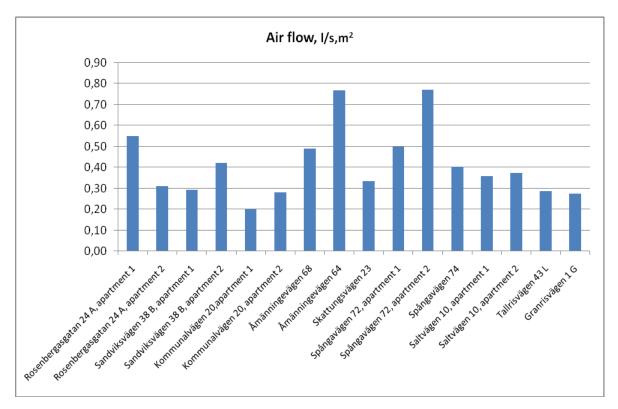


Figure 5. Results of airtightness testing



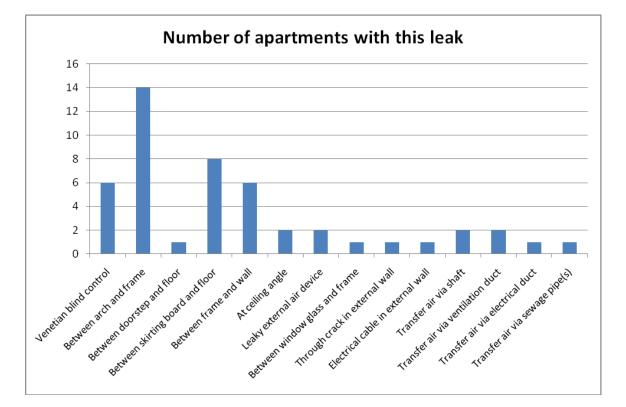


Figure 6. Number of apartments with this leak. 14 of 16 apartments studied have leaks between sash and frame and/or between door and frame. In six apartments there are leaks between frame and external wall. In eight apartments there are leaks at the floor through the external wall.

Comments

Rosenberggatan 24 A apt 1, Helsingborg has major leakage between window sash and frame in the bathroom.

Spångavägen 72 (apt 2), Spångavägen 74 in Spånga and Åmänningevägen 64 in Årsta have major leakage between balcony door and frame/threshold.

Tallrisvägen 43 and Granrisvägen 1 in Örebro have an old supply air system which is no longer in use but which is connected to other apartments in the building. About 50% of all leakage air is in the form of transfer air from other apartments.

Saltvägen 10, apt 1 and apt 2, Farsta, have a leaky shaft as a result of the replacement of main services. There have been complaints about problems with the spread of tobacco smoke between apartments, for example.



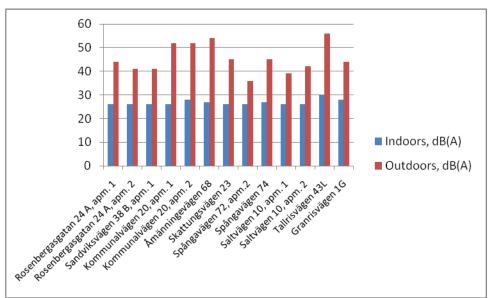


Figure 6. Sound level measurement with weighting filter A. (Readings below 26 dB(A) are reported as 26 dB(A) since this the lower measuring limit of the meter.)

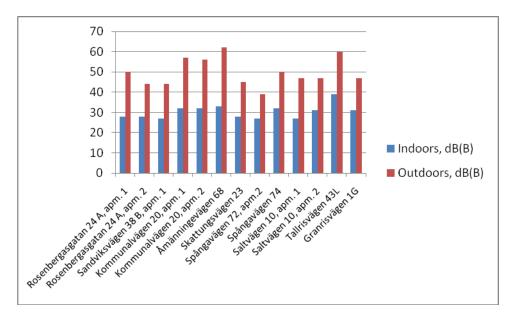


Figure 7. Sound level measurement with weighting filter B.



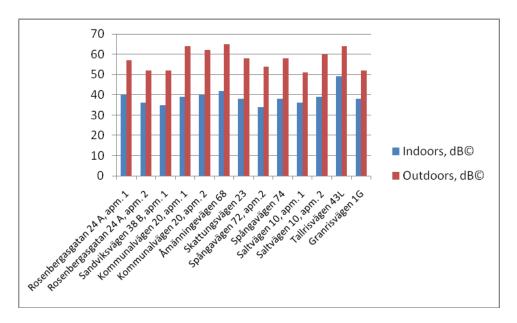


Figure 8. Sound level measurement with weighting filter C.

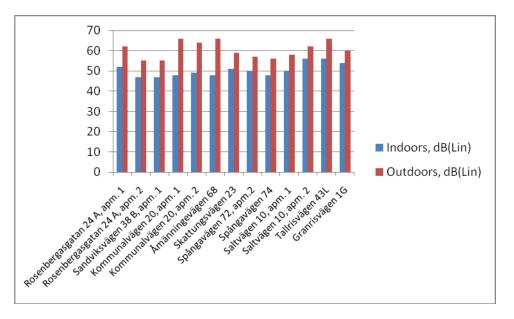


Figure 9. Sound level measurement without weighting filter.

Comments

During the sound level measurements, occasional higher sound levels from, for example. passing lorries and trains and from crows were not included. Only the "normal basic noise" was measured.

However, at Tallrisvägen 43 an excavator was working continuously outside the apartment, so the noise levels are higher for that apartment. Similarly, the noise levels at the apartment at Granrisvägen 1 G are slightly higher as a result of children playing in a sandpit outside the apartment.



2010-04-19 Bengt Bergqvist Energianalys AB

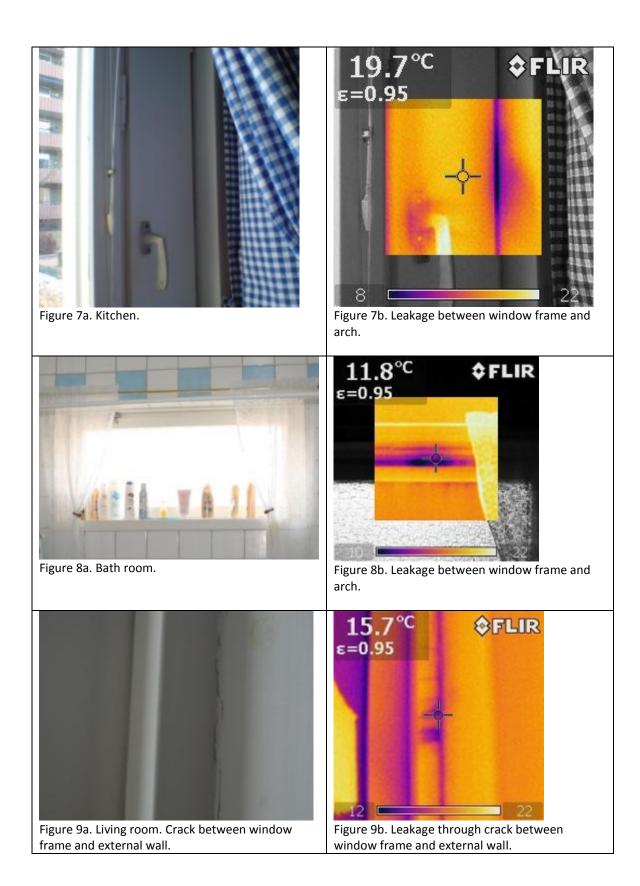
Bengt Bergqvist

Appendix: Illustration appendices with photos.

Rosenbergsgatan 24A, gable apartment no 1.







Rosenbergsgatan 24A, Apartment no 2, entrance floor.



Figure 1a. Rosenborgsgatan 24 A, entrance.



Figure 1b. Rosenborgsgatan 24 A, balcony side.



Figure 2a. The Blower Door was mounted at the balcony door opening.



Figure 2b. Living room. Leakage was registrated through splice between extranal wall and floor.



Figure 3a. Living room.

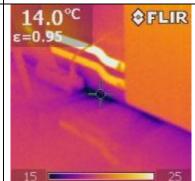
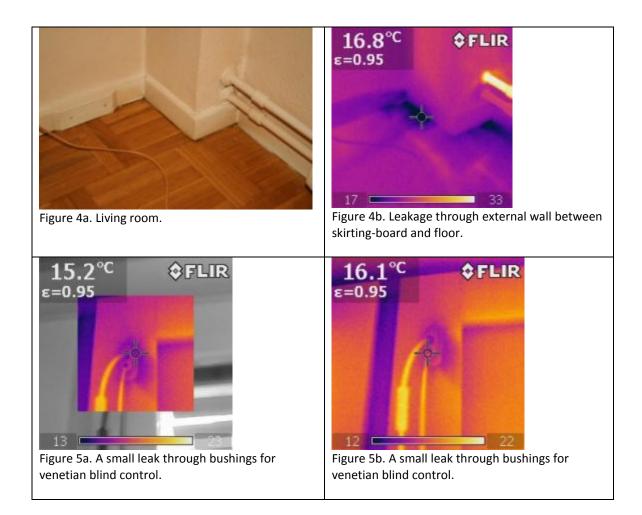


Figure 3b. Leakage through external wall between skirting-board and floor.



Sandviksvägen 38 B, Växjö, Lägenhet, 1 tr.



Bild 1a. Sandviksvägen 38 B. Entrésida mot gård.



Bild 1b. Sandviksvägen 38 B. Balkongsida mot Sandviksvägen.



Bild 2a. Uteluftsdon bakom radiator tätades provisoriskt under provningen.



Bild 2b. Uteluftsdon bakom radiator tätades provisoriskt under provningen.



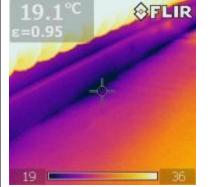
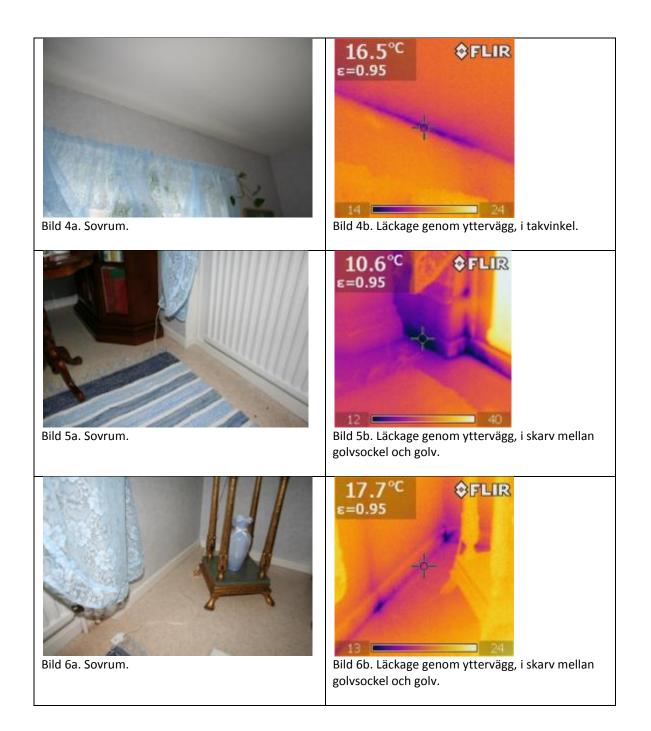


Bild 3b. Läckage genom yttervägg, i skarv mellan golvsockel och golv.





Sandviksvägen 38 B, Apartment no 2, third floor.





Kommunalvägen 20, Huddinge, Apartment no 1, 6th floor.



Figure 4a. Leak trough window frame and arch.

Figure 4b. Leak trough window frame and arch.



Kommunalvägen 20, Huddinge, Apartment no 2, third floors.



Figure 1a. Kommunavägen 20, Entrance towards west.



Figure 1b. Kommunalvägen 20. Facades towards east and north.



Figure 2a. Living room.



Figure 2b. Living room. Blower Door placed in opening for balcony door.



Figure 3a. Bed room, leak trough window frame and arch.

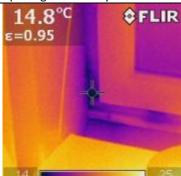
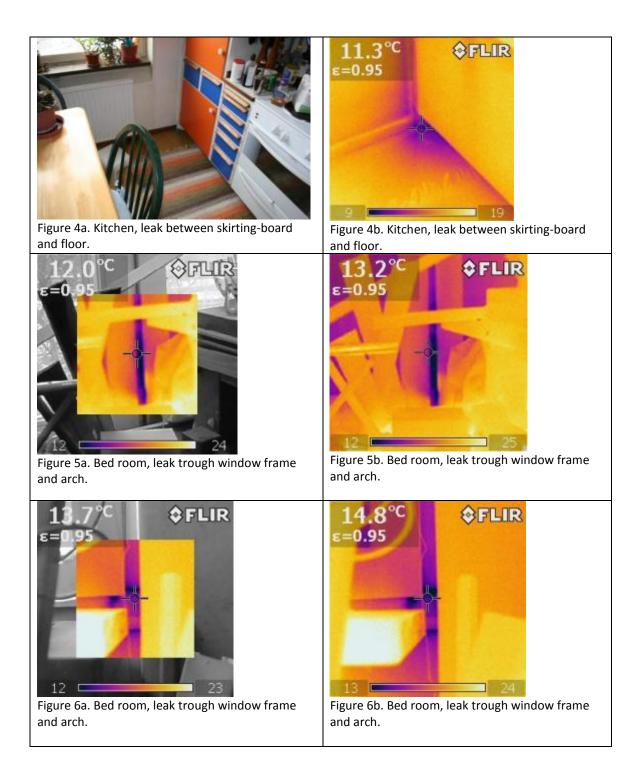


Figure3b. Bed room, leak trough window frame and arch.

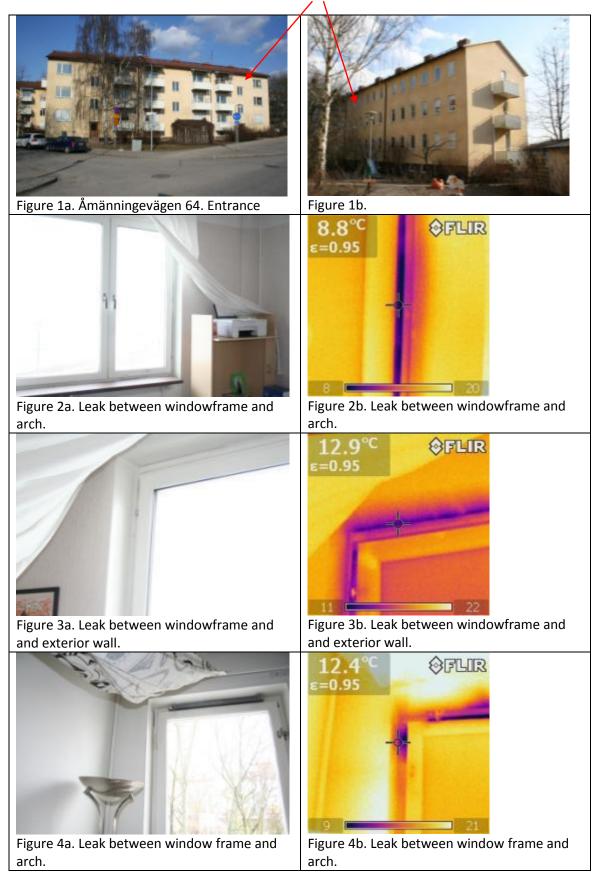


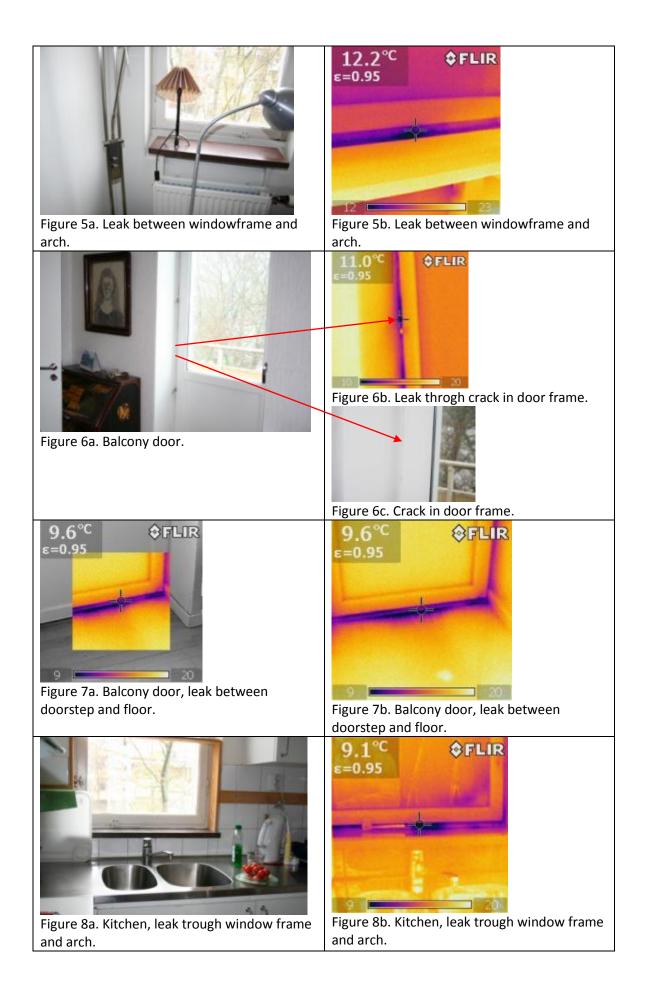
Åmänningevägen 68, Årsta, Apartment no 1, second floor





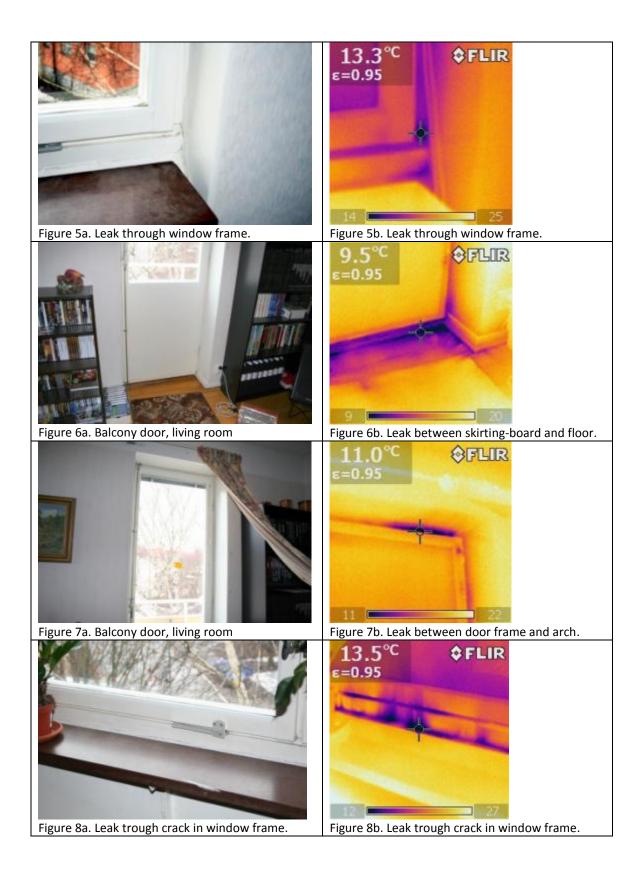
<u>Åmänningevägen 64, Årsta, Apartment no 2, Second floor</u>

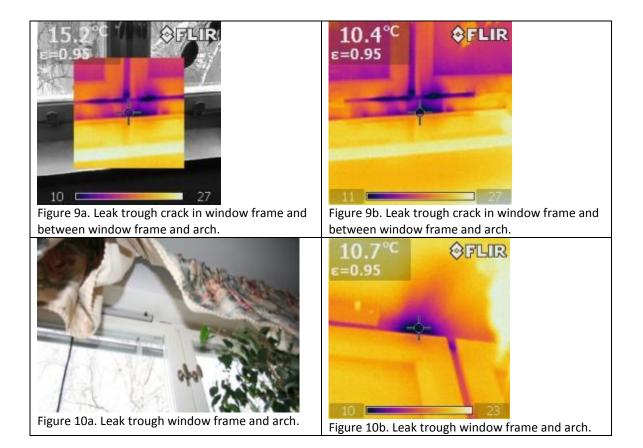




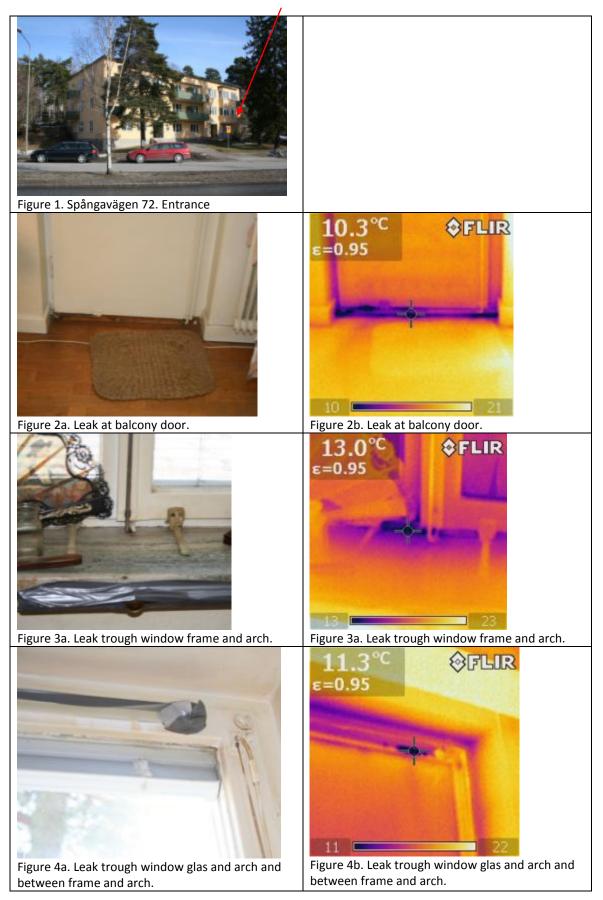
Skattungsvägen 23, Årsta, Gable apartment on second floor

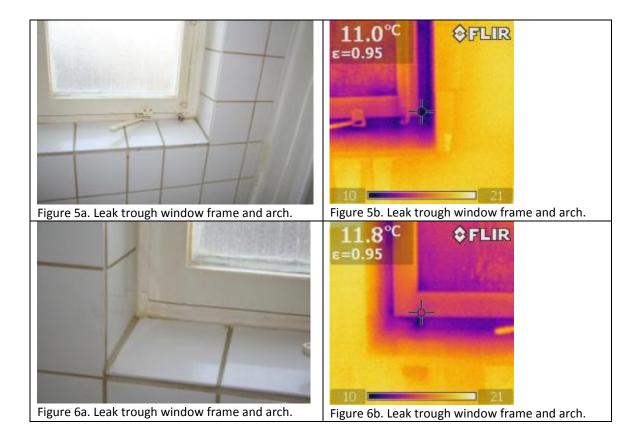






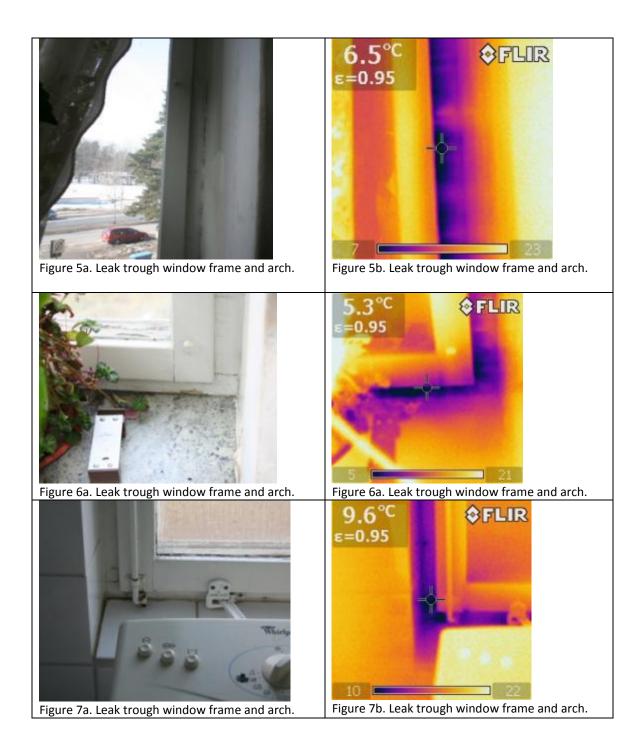
Spångavägen 72, Apartment no 1, first floor.





Spångavägen 72, Apartment no 2, first floor.





Spångavägen 74, Apartment on second floor.





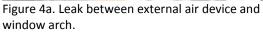




Figure 4b. External air device (type Biobe)

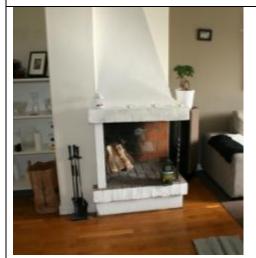


Figure 5a. Air tightness testing were performed both with sealed stove and unsealed stove. The smoke damper was closed in both measurements.



Figure 5b. No measurable difference in air flows were registrated between sealed and unsealed stove.

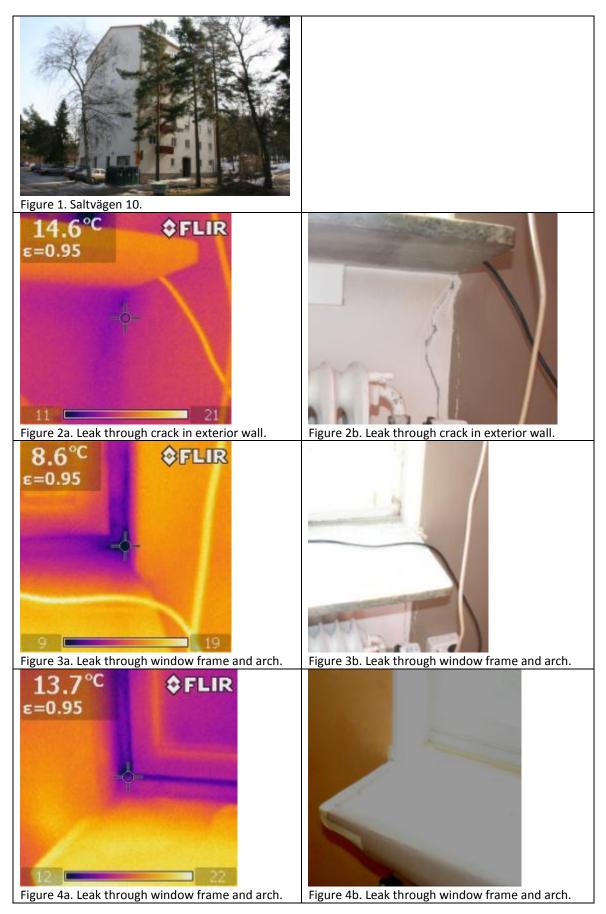
Saltvägen 10, Apartment no 1, first floor.

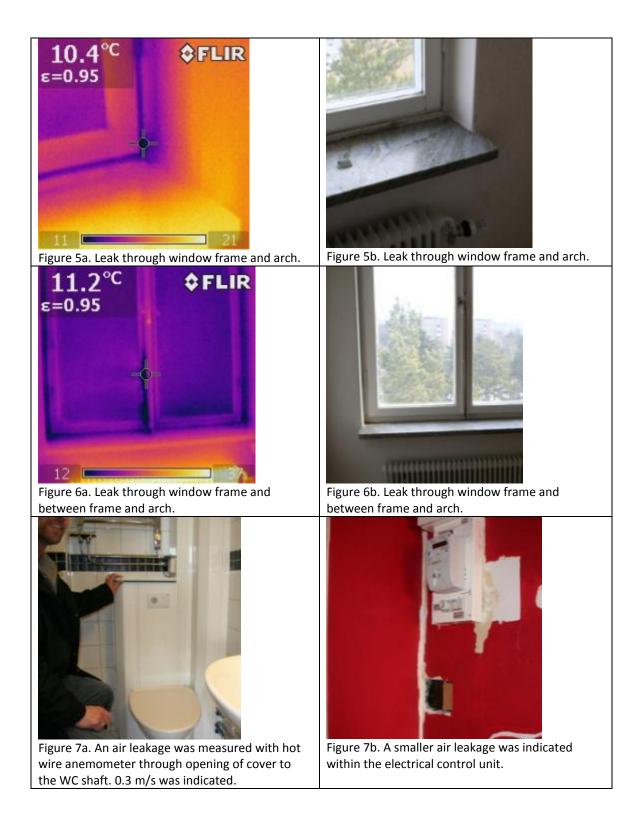






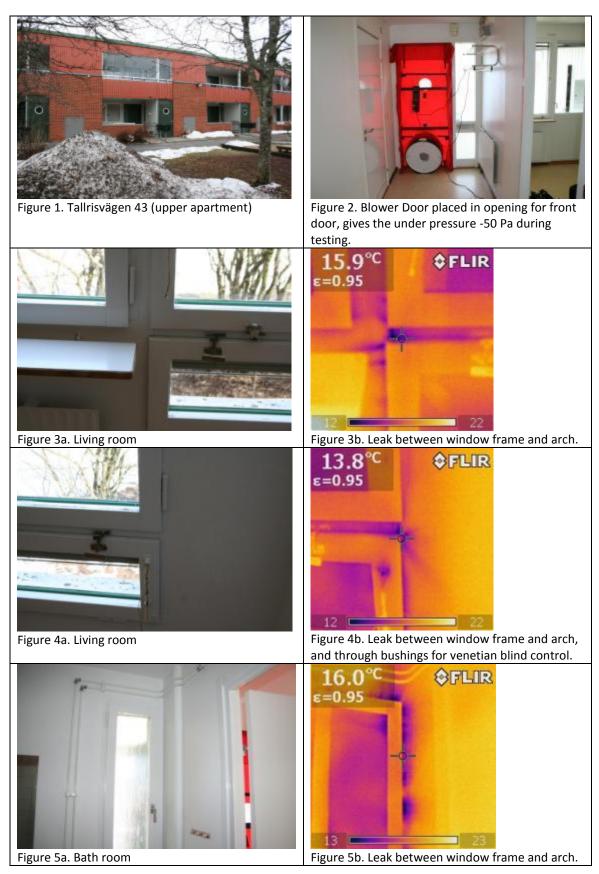
Saltvägen 10, Apartment no 2, 6th floor.



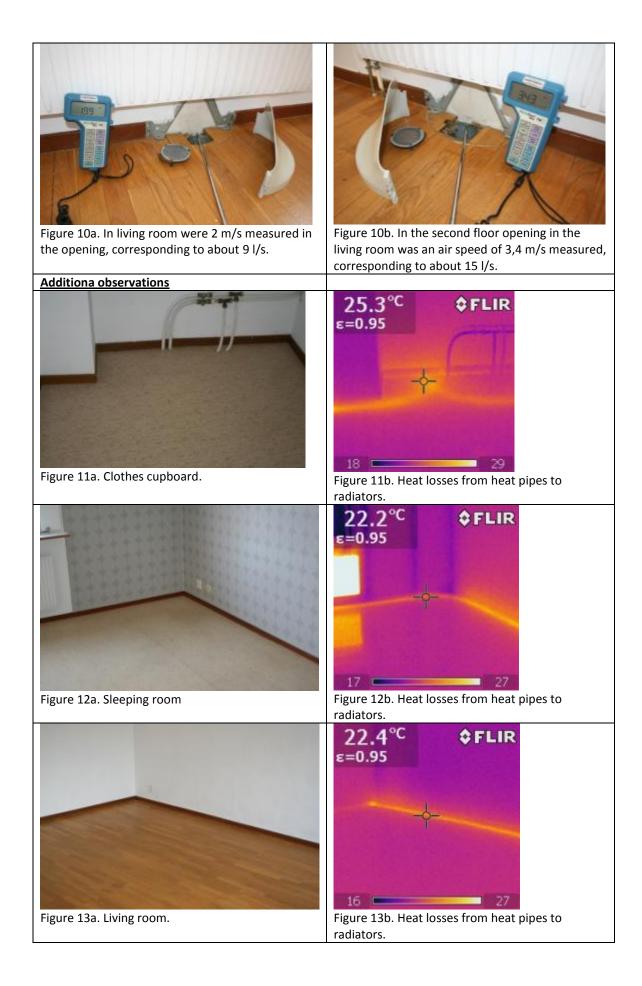


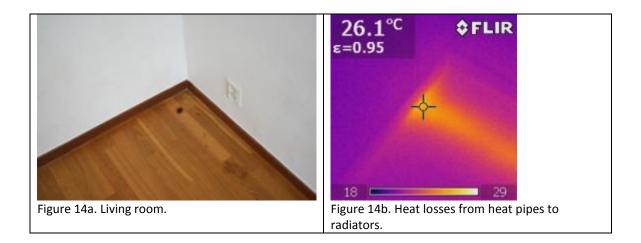


Tallrisvägen 43, ground floor.









Granrisvägen 1G, Örebro, Vacant apartment.



