

Draught proofing

It's a breeze



Draught proofing is one of the easiest and most effective ways to keep you cosy at home. Not only will you feel more comfortable, you'll also reduce your heating bills and cut down on emissions that contribute towards climate change.

Did you know?

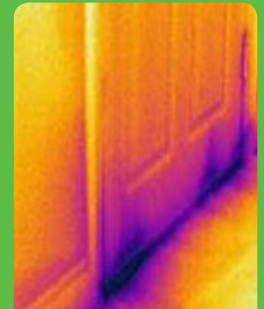
Draught proofing windows and doors can save around £25 to £35 per year.



Where are draughts likely to come from?

Most homes have unwanted cracks and gaps that let warm air escape and let cold air in. You'll know where they are when the wind blows through them!

In this thermal image the dark patches show cold draughts coming underneath the door



Source: eViz, Plymouth University



What's involved?

Draught proofing reduces the uncomfortable flow of cold air around your home, and also prevents warm air from escaping - keeping you cosy. You can do this by filling gaps around the home, and it is a fairly easy task for the competent DIY-er. The materials range from brushes, foams and sealants to strips and shaped rubber or plastic. Most can be bought cheaply from your local DIY store, and should come with detailed instructions.



Or if in doubt, you could get it done professionally; a handyman will know exactly the right materials to use and where to use them.

Here's a helpful checklist that can be used to draught proof different areas of your home



Simple draught proofing measures you could try at home



Letterboxes

Letterbox covers in the form of flaps or brushes.



Unused chimneys

Caps over the chimney pots or things to prevent draughts, e.g. chimney balloons or even plastic bags stuffed with other plastic bags. Remember to remove and let the air circulate in summer.



Around pipes rising into loft space above airing cupboards

Silicone mastic, wall filler, expanding foam.



Thick curtains

Fitting curtains made with heavy material can reduce heat loss through a window at night.



Draught excluders

If there is a gap at the bottom of a door between a heated room and an unheated room you could block it with a 'sausage-shaped' draught excluder – you can make one stuffed with used plastic bags or bits of spare material.



Draught proofing measures to try if you're a dab hand at DIY

Around windows

Foam, metal or plastic draught strips. If sliding sash windows – brush seals on sash edges. Alternatively, try draught-stripping internal doors.



Outside doors

Brush or hinged-flap draught excluders, fitted along the bottom of the doors.



Large gaps in the building

Expanding polyurethane foam or additional block work.



Redundant extractor fan outlets

These should be blocked up and may need to be filled with additional block work.



Cracks in walls

Cement or a hard-setting decorators' wall filler.



Floorboards and skirting boards

Flexible fillers, clear or brown silicone mastic, decorators' caulk or other mastic type products.



Loft hatches and doors

Strips of draught excluding material, fitted around the edges of the frame, and don't forget to insulate the hatch itself.



Via downlighters in bedroom ceilings

Use a wall filler to fill any gaps around the light fitting and the ceiling.



Estimated savings and costs quoted are based on a family of 4 sharing a 3 bedroom semi-detached home (Energy Saving Trust, April 2016).

For expert and impartial free advice on reducing your fuel bills, saving energy and making your home more comfortable visit energysavingtrust.org.uk or call: England and Wales - The Energy Saving Advice Service on 0300123 1234 (charged as a national rate call). Scotland - Scottish Government's Home Energy Scotland hotline on 0808 808 2282 (calls are free).