

PREPARE FOR THE COST INCREASE THIS WINTER

With the news of the VAT increase to hit everyone next January, now is the time for householders to think about how they can save money this winter and draught proofing is a simple way to achieve this.

With **three quarters of** UK homes having inadequate draught proofing, the National Insulation Association (NIA) highlights that it is one of the most inexpensive and instantly effective energy efficiency measures for a home, yet so often overlooked.

A typical home loses up to **20%** of its heat due to uncontrolled leakage of air through gaps and draughts can cause major discomfort in the home. Draughts cause cold damp air to be forced in as the warm air is drawn out – which can have adverse affects on health – particularly for the elderly and very young.

Regardless of weather conditions, expensive heat will leak through ill fitting doors, windows and any unsealed gaps in the property.

There are several types of materials available to help prevent air leakages including: brushes, sealants and extruded strips of profiled foam and rubber. Good quality draught proofing materials will carry the **BS 7386:1997** approval mark and will not only prevent expensive heat loss and save energy, but will also increase comfort levels whilst guarding against ingress of bad weather leading to the damage of internal decoration.

Using a Professional Installer

All insulation works best when fitted correctly and the NIA recommend that this is carried out by a professional approved installer to ensure the greatest benefits are achieved.

Draught proofing property professionally could reduce emissions by around 130kg of carbon dioxide (CO₂) each year.

There are a number of grants and schemes available to home owners and Landlords which can assist with the cost of installing these products.

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NATIONAL INSULATION
ASSOCIATION

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To find out more or to contact their local installer householders should visit the NIA website on www.nationalinsulationassociation.org.uk

Ends

Notes to Editors

The National Insulation Association represents over 90% of the UK's home insulation industry, including installers and manufacturers. The NIA and its members are committed to providing a high quality, value for money service to householders, housing managers and developers.

 The NIA is here to help you with expert opinions and comments on any matter that concerns the insulation of homes and businesses. For further information and images call Duncan or Michele at the NIA press office on 01327 701 702 or email duncan@evolution-pr.co.uk.

NIA installers carry out work that complies with national standards and technical approvals such as the British Board of Agrément, and in the case of Cavity Wall Insulation according to the Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency technical guidance covering assessment and installation.



Cavity Wall Insulation work is covered by the Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency's (CIGA) independent 25-year guarantee. www.ciga.co.uk

All of our members abide by the NIA Code of Professional Practice.

- Half of the heat lost in a home is through the walls or loft space.
- The UK's housing stock is estimated at approximately 24.5 million dwellings and of that, approximately 36% are non-cavity wall construction – solid brick, solid stone, pre-1944 timber frame and non-traditional (i.e. concrete construction). It is estimated that there are around 7m properties that have solid walls that need insulating.
- Cavity Wall Insulation is the most cost-effective way of improving comfort levels and reducing energy use in the home. Average savings of around 15%, equating to £115 per year can be made on a typical home's energy bills. The installation is clean, safe and only takes a couple of hours.
- It's estimated that around 9 million UK homes have cavity walls which have not been insulated. Collectively, they are wasting around £950 million every year through the energy being lost through their walls. This still leaves roughly one in three British households which could have their comfort levels increased and their fuel bills reduced.

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- Increasing the thickness of existing loft insulation in the 13 million homes with 100mm or less of loft insulation to thicknesses required for modern new dwellings (270mm) would reduce each of their individual energy costs by around 25%. By fitting loft insulation, householders can reduce heating costs by around 15%.
- In 2003, space heating accounted for around 53% of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK. Over 40% of the Government's projected carbon savings for the household sector are expected to come from insulation.
- This corresponds to around 200MtC over the lifetime of the measures, nearly 15% of the annual household emissions.

To find a local NIA approved installer in your area, access information on the benefits of insulation or find details of grants available please visit our website :-

www.nationalinsulationassociation.org.uk

The biggest carbon challenge in the UK is to significantly tackle the real “energy wasters”, the existing housing stock.

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