

DIY DRAUGHT PROOFING



Draught proofing is one of the cheapest and easiest ways to cut energy costs in the home, whether you live in a house or a flat. The aim is to stop cold air coming in and prevent warm air from escaping. Keeping the warm air inside will save you money on your energy bills as your heating system won't need to work as hard to keep your home at the desired temperature.

» Lower bills

» Lower carbon footprint

» Inexpensive

» Warmer home

For more information and advice, please contact Sarah Gill on 07720 098980 or sarah.gill@groundwork.org.uk

In more detail:

Draughts or gaps in the home act like unwanted ventilation shafts, allowing cold air to seep in and hot air to escape. When the household heats their home, these uncontrolled ventilation gaps let expensive hot air escape. Many draughts can be fixed on a DIY basis with tools and equipment readily available from DIY stores. The most common draught zones along with DIY solutions are:

Windows - Use foam, metal or plastic draught strips, or brush seals for sash windows

Exterior doors - Fit brush or hinged-flap draught excluders, fitted along the bottom of the doors

Interior doors - Cut draughts with 'snake' draught excluders, brushes or similar strips of material

Unused chimneys - Fit a chimney draught excluder or plastic bags stuffed with other plastic bags also work. Remember to remove and let the air circulate in summer

Floorboards and skirting boards - Fill the gaps with flexible fillers, clear or brown silicone mastic, or decorators' caulk

Cracks in walls - Use cement or a hard-setting decorators' wall-filler

Redundant extractor-fan outlets - These should be blocked up

Loft hatches - Use strips of draught excluding material fitted around the edges of the frame, and don't forget to insulate the hatch itself

Around pipework - Apply silicone mastic, wall-filler or expanding foam as appropriate.

Lighting and electrical fittings - Plug the gaps around the fittings with wall-filler

Letterboxes - Fit flaps or brushes to keep the cold air out and the warm air in.

What does it cost?

Depending on how much of your home requires draught proofing and what type you choose, it could cost as little as £5. If you hire a professional to carry out draught proofing in your home, expect to pay around £200.

How much will I save?

Installing draught proofing measures in an average UK home could save the household £60 per year on heating bills. Plus, you can get away with turning the heating down a fraction more in draught-proofed homes. By turning down the thermostat by one degree, you can save a further £80 a year.

Where can I purchase the fittings?

You can purchase all the tools and equipment you need from any DIY store.

For more information and advice, please contact
Sarah Gill on 07720 098980 or sarah.gill@groundwork.org.uk