

WALL INSULATION



A house with no insulation loses approximately 40% of its heat through the walls. Insulating these walls keeps the warmth at home for longer and makes homes more comfortable and cheaper to heat.

» Lower bills

» Lower carbon footprint

» Increase the value of your home

» Reduces noise pollution

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

In more detail:

About a third of all the heat lost in an uninsulated home escapes through the walls. In general, houses built from the 1990s onwards have wall insulation to keep the heat in, but if your house is older than that, it may not have any wall insulation at all.

There are three main types of wall insulation and choosing the right one will depend on what type of walls you have.

- **Cavity Wall** - If your home was built after the 1930s, the chances are that its external walls are made of two 'skins' with a small gap between them. This means they are 'cavity walls' and the gap between them can be filled with insulating material to stop the warmth escaping to the outside. For professional installers, the job is simple, quick (about two hours) and makes no mess. Some walls can also be unsuitable though so always check with a registered installer.
- **External Solid Wall** - if your home was built before the late 1920s it is likely to have solid walls and, depending on the circumstances, the walls can be insulated internally (from the inside) or externally (from the outside); both are significant undertakings in terms of cost and disruption. External solid wall insulation involves adding a layer of insulating material to the outside walls of a building and coating this with a protective render or cladding. It may be particularly suitable if you want to avoid any loss of space or the disruption of work going on inside your house, or if you are doing other work to the exterior of your property, such as re-rendering. Externally insulating your home costs on average £13,000, though this depends on the size of the building and the number of outside walls being insulated.
- **Internal Solid Wall** - typically involves fitting rigid insulation boards to the wall, or by building a stud wall filled in with insulation material such as mineral wool fibre. It is generally cheaper than external solid wall insulation but it will make your rooms smaller and can be much more disruptive as it will require skirting boards, door frames and external fittings to be removed and reattached. Internally insulating your home costs on average £8,000, though this depends on the size of the building and the number of outside walls being insulated.

How much can I save?

Savings will range on the type of property, you could save as much as £355 annually for a detached house, and as much as £105 annually for a mid-floor flat.

Who should install wall insulation?

It is recommended that you obtain 2-3 quotes. You should also ensure the installer is a member of the National Insulation Association.

Do I need planning permission?

Planning permission is not normally required for fitting insulation (where there is no change in external appearance). However, if the building is listed or is in a conservation area you should consult your local planning authority.

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