



## Draught Proofing

**Draught proofing your home  
can save 15-20% of your  
winter heating costs.**

### The Facts

*1. Draughts can increase your heating costs.*

*2. Draught proofing your home can a significant effect on your comfort, health and hip pocket.*

*3. Every home needs air movement and passive cross ventilation but air movement should be controlled.*

*4. Older homes are more susceptible to draughts.*

### Why draught proof?

With the ever increasing cost of electricity these days, the emphasis on cutting down emissions, living greener and the weekly demands to stretch the budget further and further we are all looking for ways to cut down our power consumption.

For the average home draught proofing will not radically cut your power bills overnight, however, it is easy to do and is a cost-effective way to contribute to the reduction of your bills. The savings will add up dramatically over time.

The air leakage from your home will vary from day to day and season to season with the changes of air pressure inside and outside your home. It is this change in difference in air pressure that causes draughts to whistle through your home when the wind is blowing strongly.

Older homes can be more susceptible to draughts and in some cases can increase your power bills by 15-20%.

Every room needs air movement and in summer passive cross ventilation is a cheap and effective way to cool your home, however, air movement should be controlled to minimise the unwanted loss of heat in winter and cool air in summer.

As we get older maintaining a consistent temperature becomes more important in the challenge of staying healthy, making draughts more of an issue.

## Seal gaps and cracks to reduce the heat loss from your home.

### Finding where the draughts are.

When looking for the origins of the draughts in your home start in the obvious places like gaps under doors and around windows. Look for tell-tale signs like the curtain that always moves.

Also look in the more not so obvious spots around fireplaces, exhaust systems, vents, architraves around external doors and under skirting boards.

Use all your senses to detect draughts. Listen for rattling windows and take note of the feel of air against your skin as you move around your home.

Chances are that if you give it a bit of thought you can probably already identify many of the draught problems spots around your home.

### Doors and windows

Focus on external doors and windows but also seal internal doors to rooms you don't heat regularly in winter.

There are a range of different products available to seal gaps around external doors and windows including weather seals and sealing compounds.

DIY door and window seals are readily available at your local hardware store to suit most applications. Most products include all the necessary instructions you will require.

Doing your homework and choosing the right seals for the job will ensure that you get the result you are looking for quickly and easily.

### Gaps and cracks

Caulking compounds can be used to seal gaps and cracks. There are different types for different applications.

- Flexible gap fillers can be used to seal between surfaces where there is the need to allow movement. i.e. around windows, architraves and skirtings.
- Rigid gap fillers are for use in sealing solid surfaces where a smooth finish is needed. i.e. holes in walls and ceilings.

- Foam fillers are used to fill larger more irregular gaps. i.e. around pipes and other building skin penetrations.

### Other areas

- Check your recessed lights to ensure warm air is not escaping into the ceiling space.
- Fireplaces extract air from your home whether they are in use or not. Tight fittings screens, chimney top or 'throat' dampers can seal off draughts from fireplaces when not in use.
- Installing a door at the bottom of a stairway or between a heated room and a hallway can reduce the amount of heat that is lost to unheated areas of your home.
- Replacing an internal sliding door with a swing door provides a better seal between rooms and will reduce draughts and heat loss.

**DECISION**easy

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