

Home Energy Check-up Information Sheet

Issue Number 12 Updated	Subject / Source Solid Wall insulation	Date November 2020
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Solid wall homes are hard to keep warm. There are solutions.

- 1) Insulate the outside of the wall with styrene slab such as Kingspan or a rockwool insulation material and then render over. If already rendered existing rendering if loose will need to be removed first. The projection of windowsills will need to be considered, together with the relocation of roof guttering and down pipes, drains and other services. It will also be important not to bridge the damp proof course. External insulation may not be practical for one unit of a semi-detached or terraced building. Within an AONB a planning application will be necessary. For a listed building (one of special architectural interest) an application for listed building consent will also almost certainly be necessary.

- 2) Care is necessary when insulating solid walls not to create damp problems. The following is taken from the Energy Saving Trust website. "Whenever you fit solid wall insulation to a building you need to take account of water vapour to make sure that you don't create new damp problems in the future. This may involve using "breathable" insulation materials that will allow the vapour to carry on permeating the walls, or it could involve creating a continuous vapour barrier to make sure no vapour can get into the walls from the inside. You will need an experienced specialist installer to develop a moisture control strategy that is specific to your building.
<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/solid-wall-insulation/>

- 3) Visually external insulation may have significant effect which will need to be considered, but the energy savings are considerable.

- 4) Insulating internally is the alternative but quite disruptive. Battens need to be nailed to walls or better still plaster adhesive dabs used. Plasterboard faced insulation board is then applied and generally the wall then needs to be re-plastered. Skirting will need to be removed and depending on style and depth of window reveals, door surrounds etc, these may need to be remove or replaced and electrical sockets will need to be brought forward. In a small room the reduced volume may be an issue.

- 5) Such work greatly reduces condensation on cold walls as well as reducing heat loss. The thickness of the combined board and fixing will vary from 60 to 90mm depending upon the thickness of insulation boards.
- 6) Church Stretton Town Council office now has externally insulated walls.
- 7) It is recommended that the local planning authority be approached to ascertain what permissions may be necessary.