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Charity No. 1159816

Energy Advice Drop In
The Wellbeing Centre
Church Stretton
Thursday's 10.00 – 12.00



INFORMATION SHEET No. 12 DATE OF ISSUE November 2020

Solid Wall Insulation

Solid wall homes are hard to keep warm. There are solutions.

- 1) Outside walls can be insulated 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 and possibly conservation areas, 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. Again, breathability of the insulation material needs to be considered.

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. See also www.planningportal.co.uk

8) **And finally, specialist advice is encouraged. Not all local builders have the necessary knowledge, and if not done correctly, long term damp problems can be created.**

Caution - Please Read this:

Our Advice Note has been carefully prepared and is, as far as we know, accurate at the date of publication. However, things change very fast in the world of technology and in government schemes. Sometimes parts of Advice Notes become outdated and may not offer best advice very soon after publication. We do our best to keep them up to date with the limited resources we have. Furthermore, our advice may not be appropriate for your particular circumstances. We advise that you get advice from a relevant expert before making changes. We may be able to offer further advice or make suggestions on who to contact if you get in touch with us. We are not technical experts but have many years of offering common sense advice and we recommend you should not rely on our Advice Note alone for making decisions. The national advice centre Energy Savings Trust is a good source of information.

See <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>