



Cavity Wall Insulation

Cavity wall insulation only works on buildings that already have a cavity between their walls.

Most properties in the UK that were built after the 1920s, will have a gap between their interior and exterior wall.

Properties built after the 1990s were often built in a similar way, but with insulation already put in the gap.

Heat loss through the walls can make up to 35% of all heat loss in the home, so insulating them will help reduce your heating bill.

If you have any damp inside your home, then the cause will need to be resolved before the insulation is installed, otherwise you could increase your damp problem.



Always use a qualified installer. CIGA (Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency) guarantee cavity wall insulation for 25 years, but only through registered installers.

Can I get it?

If you are unsure if you have cavity walls, you can check the brick pattern of your property. If your wall is made up of full-sized bricks in a staggered pattern, then you likely have cavity walls.

If you can't see your bricks, then you could measure the wall depth around the edge of your window. If your wall is more than 260mm thick, then you likely have a cavity wall.

If you still aren't sure, then you can ask a surveyor or contractor to drill a small hole in the mortar to see if there's a cavity.

This is also a good way to check if your home already has cavity wall insulation; by getting a professional to drill a hole and check.

You can check for evidence of insulation yourself by looking for small, filled holes in the mortar of your exterior wall. These are often in regular patterns under windows, above your damp proof course, or just under the roof.

Most types of insulation are best suited for cavities of 50mm or more, but some types are suitable for cavities as small as 35mm.



Things to consider

A series of 2cm holes will be drilled into the mortar of your exterior walls.

The installer will blow the insulation in through these holes and then fill in the holes.

The insulation must be filled in a uniform way to avoid gaps and cold spots.

The most common type of cavity wall insulation is polystyrene beads, which allows any moisture to drain throughout the cavity.

Some installers may use mineral wool, which also works well but can have issues of collecting moisture in one spot, if you later get a crack in your wall.

Adequate ventilation must be installed.

Installation is relatively quick, often taking less than a day, and, in most cases, it does not require scaffolding.

If your wall joins to a neighbour's, then the installers will place a barrier inside the wall to ensure that your neighbours aren't affected.

If you live in a flat, then you will need permission to install cavity wall insulation in the entire building.

Cost vs Savings

The cost of installation varies depending on the size of the property as this will affect the amount of materials needed.

It also varies depending on type of property, e.g. a terraced house will need less walls insulated than a detached property.

Prices can range from around £1000 to £4500, but could be more if it is a particularly large house.

Savings will again vary depending on the number of external walls the property has, but could be around £100 - £400 per year.

You could recuperate your costs within 5 – 10 years of installation, depending on heating type and current energy prices.

If you have any walls that are not insulated, e.g. conservatories, then you will still experience heat loss in this room, so it is recommended to keep that room isolated from the rest of the house when using your heating system.