



UK SDA – Home Insulation

Industry Briefing Note provided by Mark Group

... cavity wall and loft insulation typically save around £280 per year on energy bills and reduces the carbon footprint of the property by around one-third. This Briefing Note explains the benefits of these two simple approaches to reducing energy consumption and answers the questions that typically arise ...

UK Sustainable Development Association

1st January 2009

Cavity Wall Insulation ...

Most modern homes are generally constructed with two masonry walls (bricks or blocks) with at least a 50mm airgap or “cavity” between them. Filling this cavity with insulating material reduces the heat loss that takes place across the air gap.

Typically, the insulating material consists of granulated glass wool fibres, treated with an inert water repellent then milled down so that it can be blown into the wall cavity. This creates an insulating quilt around the home.

Benefits ...

Around a third of the heat lost in an un-insulated home is through the walls. Cavity wall insulation is the best way of reducing this heat loss, leading to a reduction of about £180 per year on fuel bills for a typical home.

It also lowers the carbon emissions from the home by around 800-kgs per year, and improves the energy rating on the Energy Performance Certificate for the property.

Practical implications ...

Cavity wall insulation is simple and straightforward to retrofit to an existing property, taking around less than one day to complete for a typical three bedroom semi-detached house, plus pre and post installation inspections.

The installation process takes place in two stages, with technicians first drilling a series of small holes in the mortar between bricks at specific points and heights around the building; these holes do not damage the fabric of the property and are re-filled on completion of the work. The insulation is then injected into these holes.

This work involves a bare minimum of disruption to the household routine, provided the simple precautions recommended by the installers are taken.



Loft Insulation ...

Even more straightforward to install is loft insulation which is usually supplied in roll form. The material generally used is a man-made glass wool (silica) fibre. This is soft to the touch and supplied inside sealed plastic packaging to avoid the risk of mild skin irritation.

Benefits ...

Approximately one-third of all heat loss within a property could be through an uninsulated loft. Having the correct depth of loft insulation can therefore save between £60 and £205 per year on typical heating bills.

A properly insulated loft will also reduce the carbon footprint of a home by up to 1-tonne per year, whilst also further improving the energy rating of the property on its Energy Performance Certificate.



Practical implications ...

Installation is very straightforward, and is usually accomplished in as little as two hours during which the insulation is simply laid between and across the joists. This means that the joists will no longer be visible so any subsequent access to the loft must utilise crawling boards.

The installation procedure is also clean, resulting in the minimum of disruption to the normal household routine.

Further information ...

Further information on this technology may be obtained from UK-SDA member company Mark Group (see www.markgroup.co.uk, or ring 0116-236-6523)