

Un-insulated cavity walls cost you money. Up to 33 per cent of the heat produced in your home is lost through the walls.

The good news is that cavity wall insulation is quick, clean and relatively inexpensive and it could save you £100-£160 a year on your fuel bills. It is the most cost-effective way of significantly reducing your energy costs.

It will create an even temperature in your home, help prevent condensation on the walls and ceilings and can also reduce the amount of heat building up inside your home during summer hot spells.

What is cavity wall insulation?

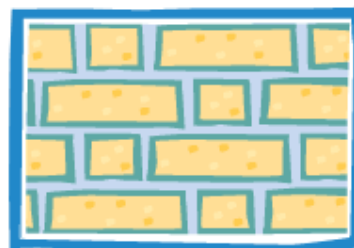
Cavity wall insulation is injected into the cavity between the inner and outer leaves of brickwork that make up the external wall of your property. An installer will do this from the outside of your property. There are a variety of different insulating materials, but they all work in the same way: by combining with the still captive air, the insulation acts as a barrier to heat loss.

Frequently asked questions

Q: How do I know if I have cavity walls?

A: First of all, check the age of your house. In most houses built after the 1920s, the external walls are made of two layers with a small air gap or 'cavity' between them.

Looking at the brick pattern of your outside walls can also help to identify cavity walls, as this will usually differ from solid walls.



Typical solid brick wall



Typical cavity wall

Q: How long will it take?

A: Between two to three hours for a three bedroom semi-detached house.

Q: Will it make a mess?

A: No. The insulation is injected from the outside, so the installers will not be working in the house.

Images courtesy Energy Saving Trust

Q: What do they use as insulation?

A: The material used will most likely be mineral wool or polystyrene beads. It will be properly accredited as a building material, guaranteed by the Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency (CIGA) and will be installed by a certified contractor.

Q: Will the work be guaranteed?

A: If you use a professional, the work will be guaranteed for 25 years by the Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency (CIGA).