

# An introduction to Draught Proofing

## Simple Solutions for Saving Energy: No. 1

### What are draughts?

Draughts occur where unwanted gaps allow cold air to flow in and warm air to escape from your home. Draught proofing is a quick, cheap and effective way to save energy and make your home snug and cosy.

### Where should I install draught proofing?

Wait for a cold, breezy day to hunt for draughts. Hold the back of your hand against potential sites to feel if cold air is getting in. Typical places to check are:

- \* External doors – around the edges, under the bottom, through the key hole and letter box
- \* Windows – especially single glazed windows
- \* Loft hatch and cellar door
- \* Fire place and chimney
- \* In between floorboards
- \* Between skirting boards and wall and/or floor
- \* Where pipes come through walls – for example under the kitchen sink

### What about ventilation?

Adequate ventilation in the right place at the right time prevents condensation and mould. Proper ventilation (like extractor fans, trickle vents, air bricks, or even opening/closing windows and doors as required) is better than having a draughty home. Ventilation is essential with appliances like propane or bottled-gas heaters, gas cookers or open fires. Consider getting a carbon monoxide monitor for added safety.



Draughts can account for 15% of wasted heat



Save £55 a year by draught proofing



Safety first: use safety goggles, gloves or mask when necessary, and follow manufacturers' instructions.



## What products are available?

Product	What does it do?	Approximate cost
Door brush	Stops draughts under doors	£3 - £7
Letter box cover	Stops draughts through letter boxes	£3 - £7
Key hole cover	Stops draughts through key holes	£3 - £10
'Rubber Fin' draught proofing	Plastic/ metal strips with a rubber 'fin'. Nailed to door/ window frames, so that when closed the fin creates a seal.	£15 – £25 for a door kit
Self adhesive draught proof strips	Rubber strips which stick on door/window frames. When closed, the door/window pushes against the rubber to form a seal.	£5 - £10 for 10m
Flexible filler or caulk.	Useful for sealing gaps between skirting boards and walls/floor.	£3 - £6 per tube.
Floorboard draught proofing	Various products available to push into gaps between floorboards.	£6 - £25 for 10m.
Expanding foam	Can fill large holes, such as around water or waste pipes coming through external walls.	£5 - £10 for a can.

## What other DIY solutions are there?

Many other simple to fit, cheap and effective products can save you money and energy:

- \* Hot water tank jackets
- \* Pipe lagging
- \* Temporary secondary glazing
- \* Reflective radiator panels
- \* Thermally lined curtains
- \* Chimney balloons



Always look for products with British Standard or Kitemark guarantee

To find out more about improving your home's energy efficiency please visit [www.environmentcentre.com](http://www.environmentcentre.com) or contact:

[DIY@environmentcentre.com](mailto:DIY@environmentcentre.com) ~ 0800 804 8601

This series of DIY guides is brought to you by Energy Action Southampton, an initiative of the Environment Centre (tEC).