

# Draught Proof Your Door

## Simple Solutions for Saving Energy: No. 3

Front doors are notorious for letting cold air in and warm air out, but it's cheap and easy to make instant improvements that will save energy and money, and make your home snug and cosy.

**The door brush:** this is screwed on to the bottom of the door to prevent draughts underneath. They have in two parts: a metal or plastic holder (available in different colours) and a brush which slides in and out.

**You will need:** tape measure, hack saw & pliers, wood screws (usually provided), screw driver (and hammer or bradawl – optional).

### How to fit the brush:

1. Measure the width of the door.
2. Slide the brush out from its holder. Cut the holder to the correct length using the hack saw. Then cut the brush using the pliers. The pliers should squash the ends of the metal together to prevent the bristles falling out.
3. Slide the brush back into the holder. Some products come with stoppers to fit over the ends of the holder to stop the brush sliding back out. Another trick is to bend the brush slightly before you slide it back in; this gives it purchase against the holder to keep it in place.
4. Hold the brush against the bottom of the door, making sure it is level. Fix a screw into each hole using the screwdriver. To help, you can give each screw a few taps with the hammer first to 'get it started' or make a pilot hole with the bradawl.
5. Don't tighten the screws yet. First, adjust the brush up/down to ensure the bristles are touching the floor when the door is closed. When the brush is positioned correctly, tighten screws firmly.



## What else can I do?

### The letter box cover

This is a plastic frame with stiff brushes that stop the air but allow the letters through. It screws on easily over the inside of your letterbox. The screws are usually provided but you will need a screw driver, and possibly a hammer to tap the screws and get them started.

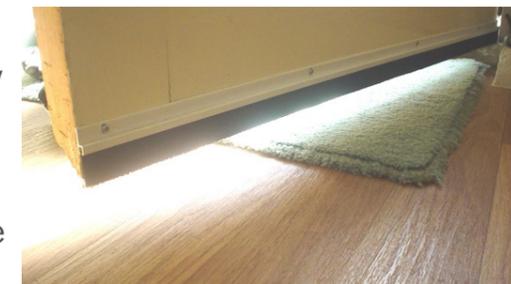
**The key hole cover:** A surprising amount of cold air can find its way in through open key holes. A range of products are available to cover key holes - have a look in your local hardware or DIY store.

**Curtain:** A long thick curtain across a front door can prevent draughts and keep the heat in. Choose a thick fabric and make sure the curtain reaches the floor and has plenty of width: air trapped in the folds will provide insulation.

**Draught proofing:** Different products can be used to seal gaps between the door and the frame. This includes self-adhesive rubber strips and 'rubber-fin' type plastic or metal strips which are nailed to the frame. For more information on this see tEC's DIY Guide to Draught Proofing.

**Need more help?** For online how-to videos, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for "DIY draught proofing".

Approximate costs  
Door brush: £5 - £10  
Letterbox cover: £5  
Keyhole cover: £3 - £10



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