

# External Wall Insulation



**Almost one-third of all UK houses have solid walls and we'll be living in these homes for decades to come. If we don't improve these houses it will be difficult to meet our current heating needs using only renewable energy. It's therefore vital that we have effective internal and external wall insulation techniques.**

Most houses built in the UK from the Victorian era up to about 1920 will have solid brick walls. You can identify these types of walls by the pattern of bricks. Some of the bricks will be laid sideways in order to bond a double-brick wall.

External wall insulation is a good option for improving these homes because it's less disruptive and doesn't reduce room sizes. Houses with cavity walls may also need this approach if a cavity fill is unsuitable, or for a high-level retrofit.

This approach should keep the whole building warm and dry – protecting your home for years to come. Adding external wall insulation leaves walls on the warm side of the insulation, where they act as thermal mass. This means the solid walls will help to retain heat in winter and to keep your home cool in summer. External cladding is also ideal if your house is part of a row or block, making a shared retrofit possible.

## Mix and Match

For some houses you'll find a combination of external and internal wall insulation is either necessary or practical. You may have to use internal insulation on the front to maintain the façade and therefore satisfy planning restrictions. However, the house could still have external insulation across all other walls.

Another example is if a pathway or driveway between two houses is narrow, not leaving enough width for external cladding. In this case, a section would need internal insulation. See our advice sheet on internal insulation for more on how to get the details right.

Finding skilled installers will be important, as precise work is key for a successful insulation job. They must deal properly with all the external pipes and other gubbins so they don't leave uninsulated thermal bridges.

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