



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy
LAD Phase 2 funding

Insulation



Cavity Wall Insulation (CWI) is a simple and effective way to reduce your heating bills – and have a warmer home.

Cavity Wall Insulation

If your home was built from the 1930s onwards, it's likely the external walls are made of two 'skins' with a small gap between them. This 'cavity' can be filled with insulating material to slow the rate of heat loss to the outside.

You can see if your home has cavity walls by the brickwork pattern. A regular pattern indicates a cavity wall, a pattern of alternating short and long bricks indicates a solid wall.

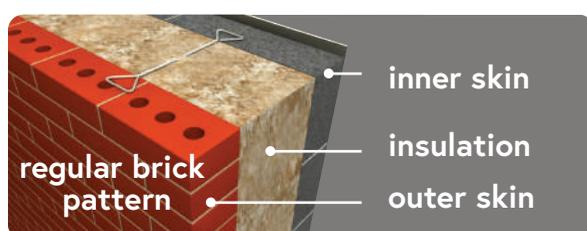
If you can't see the brickwork, a surveyor can find out if there is a cavity by drilling a small exploratory hole into the wall.

How can you tell if your home already has CWI?

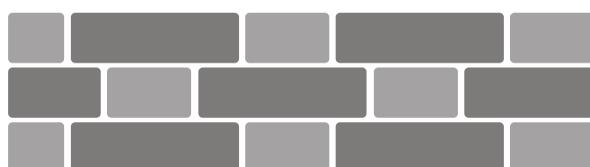
Homes built from the mid 1990s are likely to have rigid insulation boards fitted into the cavities during construction. For homes built before the mid 1990s, your EPC (Energy Performance Certificate) may tell you, although this is not always reliable. Also, check for drill holes under a window.



CAVITY WALL



SOLID WALL



CWI is installed by drilling small holes into the cavity from outside. Insulation material is blown in and the holes are refilled. Any obstructions like a conservatory, garage or porch can make access difficult and add to the cost. Any reputable installer will be registered with the Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency (CIGA). The CIGA guarantee is valid for 25 years.

See reverse →

Won't CWI cause damp?

It is not true that insulating cavity walls will inevitably lead to damp bridging. Water damage is usually due to defects in the construction of the property and not due to the faulty or inappropriate installation of CWI.

There are some situations where CWI is not appropriate:

- Poor maintenance or structural issues like cracks in the walls.
- Non-traditional construction.
- Cavity widths of less than 50mm. These are often categorised as 'hard-to-treat' cavities for which insulation systems do exist.
- Dirty cavities, dirty wall-ties or builder's rubble in the cavity.
- Exposed locations, particularly those that experience persistent wind driven rain.
- Overflowing or blocked guttering.



Generally speaking, your home will be suitable for CWI if:

- The external walls are unfilled cavity walls
- The masonry and brick work is in good condition
- The cavity is at least 50mm wide (some forms of insulation are suitable for cavities as narrow as 35mm).

