

Wheatley Energy Focus

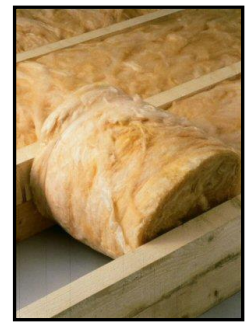
Making your Home More Efficient

Wall insulation: This is the biggest energy saving you can make to a home. A third of the heat in an un-insulated home is lost through the walls. Both solid and cavity walls can be insulated.



Cavity walls: A home with un-insulated cavity walls could cost up to £135 more to run each year than one with insulated cavities. Insulation costs are about £100 to £350 but you should make this back in about two years.

Solid walls: Many Wheatley homes have the older solid walls which can let through twice as much heat as cavity walls. However they can be insulated from the inside (fitting rigid insulation boards to the wall, or by building a stud wall filled in with mineral wool fibre) or the outside (fixing a layer of insulation material to the wall, then covering it with a special type of render or cladding). This type of insulation is more expensive than cavity walls but can lead to savings of up to £475 per year.



Loft insulation: 270 mm is the recommended depth and topping up from 100 to 270 mm can save around £25 a year on heating bills.

Hot water cylinder insulation: 75 mm is the recommended thickness and fitting a British Standard cylinder jacket will cut heat loss by over 75% saving around £40 a year - more than the cost of the jacket!



Pipe insulation: Fitting pipe insulation around exposed hot water pipes will keep water hotter for longer. It costs around £15 but will save at least that much in year 1. Fitting insulation to pipes is easy if the pipes are accessible however if pipes are hard to reach professional help may be needed.

Draughts: Draught proofing can save up to £55 a year on heating costs. It's quite easy to do and there are lots of DIY options available. Draughts can occur at any accidental gap that leads outside, such as:

- Window edges;
- Doors – including keyholes and letterboxes;
- Loft hatches;
- Electrical fittings on walls and ceilings;
- Pipework leading outside.



Most of these should be blocked (and where possible use heavy lined curtains for windows). However be careful in areas that need good ventilation such as open fires or

open flues and rooms where a lot of moisture is produced, such as the kitchens, bathrooms and utility rooms.



Radiator reflector panels: These are a low-cost energy efficiency option. Fixed behind your radiators, they reflect heat from the radiator back into the room, instead of letting the heat out through an external wall. They have most benefit when installed on un-insulated walls. Also make sure radiators are not obstructed by curtains or furniture.

Making your home more efficient – *the longer pay back*

Windows: Double-glazed windows can save up to £165 on heating bills compared to a single-glazed property.

Boilers: The latest boilers are a lot more energy efficient than older models. You can find out the energy efficiency of different boilers at <http://www.boilers.org.uk/> Boilers have energy ratings, much in the same way as homes. "A" is the most energy efficient and "G" is the lowest. Replacing a "G" rated boiler could save around £300 a year on running costs.

For **FREE** independent help and advice on how to save energy in the home, visit the Energy Savings Trust (EST) advice service for free and impartial advice.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/

They offer a free on line home energy check that will provide with a report of potential savings.

<http://hec.est.org.uk/>

Potential savings		
Item	Annual Saving	Cost Recovered in
Energy Saving Light Bulbs	£5 to £10	6 months
Hot Water Tank Insulation	£40	1 year
Draught Proofing	£55	2 years
Heating Controls	£60	Less than 1 year
Loft Insulation	£80 to £100	2 - 6 years
Cavity Wall Insulation	£130	3 years
Double Glazed Windows	£40	5 years
Replacing Old Boiler	£120 to £200	4 – 7 years

Sources:

Energy savings Trust: www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/

Money saving Expert (also advice on switching energy suppliers to get the best deals):
<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/utilities/free-cavity-loft-insulation#freeforall>

Tanya Berman & Paul Bailey, September 2012.

This document was correct at time of press. Savings and costs are approximate.

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