BASIC DRAUGHT PROOFING

In some homes, particularly older properties, there can be unwanted draughts and leaks. These draughts create uncomfortable living environments and contribute to heat loss and higher energy bills. Cracks and gaps allow warm air to escape and are usually found around wall openings (including window and door frames and pipework openings), between and around floorboards, around electrical fittings and around the loft hatch. Leaky homes are also harder to keep cool in the summer.

Some basic draught proofing measures you could install in your home include:

- Exterior doors – fitting brush or hinged-flap draught excluders along the bottom of the door; adding an internal curtain that drops to cover the whole door.

- Windows – Using foam, metal or plastic draught strips to seal gaps.

- Around pipework entry – Use silicone mastic, wall-filler or expanding foam to fill any gaps in the wall.

- Floorboards and skirting boards – fill the gaps with flexible fillers, clear or brown mastic, decorators' caulk or similar.

- Letterboxes – fit flaps or brushes to keep the cold air out.

- Unused and open chimneys – installing a chimney draught excluder or chimney balloon. Note: chimneys which are not suitably sealed at the top must still be allowed to breathe to prevent moisture build up and potential damp issues.

Important

It is important to differentiate between unwanted air leaks in our homes and the ventilation necessary to keep us, and our homes, healthy. Never block air bricks, boiler flues or trickle vents on windows. Regularly open windows in kitchens and bathrooms where there is no mechanical ventilation, such as an extractor fan, as moist air needs to escape these rooms regularly.

Cost: **£**

Useful links
- A helpful guide to draught-proofing - Energy Saving Trust
- DIY draught-proofing - Centre for Sustainable Energy (cse.org.uk)
- Draught-Proofing | Historic England
- Draught-proofing · Energy Advice London