

A homeowner's guide to AFFORDABLE HEATING

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Energy Efficiency Office
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Energy Consumption
Guide 4

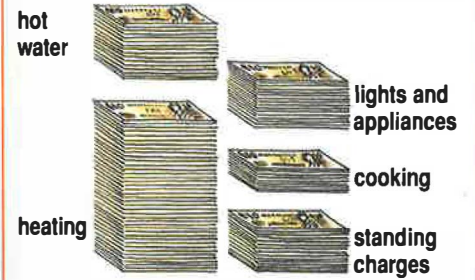
HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO KEEP WARM?

It depends on:

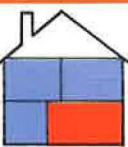

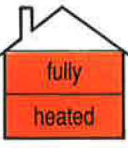
- the fuel you use
- the sort of heating you have
- the standard of insulation in your home

Your costs will also depend on the size of your rooms, the numbers in your household and the amount you use your heating. Shown below are average figures to keep warm.

How your money goes on fuel



The greater part of your fuel bill goes on heating and hot water.

	MAINS GAS		ELECTRICITY			SOLID FUELS		OTHER FUELS		
	gas fire	gas wall heater	central heating	fan heaters and bar fires	off-peak (Economy 7)	open fire	open fire with back boiler	room heater with back boiler	Calor gas cabinet heater	paraffin heater
 living room only	£5.30	£3.80	£4.50	£13.50	£7.00	£11.10	£5.90	£5.10	£11.70	£7.30
 1 bedroom flat	£6.20	£4.60	£5.70	£16.00	£7.70	£13.00	£7.80	£6.70	£13.60	£8.50
 3 bedroom house	-	£8.80	£10.25	£30.30	£15.50	-	£14.40	£12.10	-	-

The costs are for an average winter week (1990 prices), and for all day heating. They do not include standing charges or maintenance costs. The fuel costs were calculated on the Energy Targeter computer program.

Use a low setting for a long time - its cheaper and more comfortable.



Draw the curtains when it gets dark. Make sure they don't hang in front of radiators.



Tuck the bottom of the curtains onto the window sill - this will help to stop cold down draughts.

Switch off the heating or turn down the setting on your heater when no-one is at home.



Turn off heating in rooms not in use for long periods and close the door.



Make the most of the warmth from the sun - draw the curtains back and plan to spend most of your time in the sunny rooms.

MONEY SAVING TIPS

Write down the meter reading at the same time each week - especially when you change heating arrangements. This allows you to see what difference it makes to your fuel payments.



Don't put furniture in front of radiators or heaters.



THE VALUE OF INSULATION

Insulation and draughtstripping help to keep more heat in your home without you spending more on fuel. All materials insulate to some extent, but insulation materials, such as glassfibre quilt and polystyrene, are over 20 times better at keeping heat in than brickwork or concrete. Just a few inches of insulation can cut the heat lost through uninsulated walls and roofs by well over half.

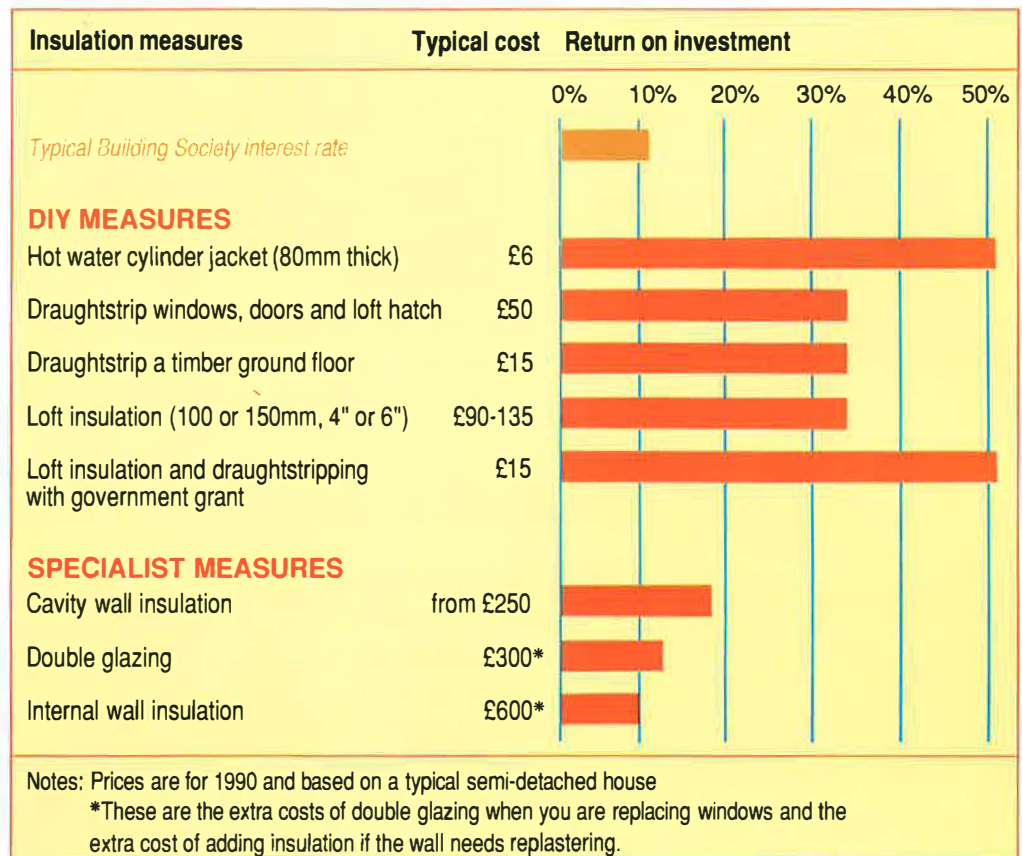
TYPES OF INSULATION

The table below gives 'low-cost' insulation measures, suitable for DIY,

and 'high-cost' measures that need to be done by builders or specialist installers. Major repair work can provide the ideal opportunity to add some of the specialist insulation measures.

The table compares investing money in a Building Society with investing it in various insulation measures.

You can see that the percentage return on the simple DIY measures is far better than the interest rates from Building Societies.



WHERE TO START

If you plan to do the work yourself, useful leaflets in **Your home energy survey** pack tell you how to do these jobs properly - see the HELPLINE section.



A CYLINDER JACKET

If your hot water tank has no insulation, or the jacket is old and thin (1" or 2" thick) a new jacket is a must - it will keep the water hot for much longer and pay for itself in a few weeks.

DRAUGHTS

Draughts are one of the main reasons why homes feel cold and cost a lot to heat. Draughtstrip windows, outside doors and the loft hatch and fill gaps in the groundfloor floorboards.



LOFT INSULATION

If you have a loft, it should have insulation at least 100mm (4") thick to keep the heat in. If your insulation is 50mm (2") thick or less, you may be eligible for a grant.

WARNING

It is a danger to your health to block up airbricks or 'spinner' vents in rooms that contain an open fire, gas fire, water heater (eg, Ascot), flued

boiler or where you use a bottled gas or paraffin heater. The vents are there to supply air to burn the fuel safely and avoid the build up of dangerous fumes.



THE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY SCHEME

The Home Energy Efficiency Scheme is a new government grant for people on Income Support, Housing Benefit, Family Credit or Community Charge Benefit. The scheme will start on 1st January 1991.

It provides grants towards the cost of draughtstripping, loft, tank and pipe insulation and gives energy advice. The size of grant depends on what work needs doing and

whether you do the work yourself, or get someone else to do it for you.

Contact the Energy Action Grants Agency to find out more and **don't** start work or buy materials until your grant has been approved.

For Home Energy Efficiency Scheme grants, contact Energy Action Grants Agency, PO Box 1NG, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE99 1NG.

OTHER GRANTS

The **Minor Works Assistance** grant is only for people on Income Support, Housing Benefit, Family Credit or Community Charge Benefit. It can pay for further insulation work, and if you are aged 60 or more, for improvements to heating systems, rewiring, roof repairs etc. However, Councils do not have to provide this grant and some may not have set aside money for it.

The **House Renovation Grant** is for larger scale work, such as a new bathroom or major repairs. Work could include insulation and a new heating system as part of the improvements. There is a means test for this grant.

For details of these two grants, contact the Environmental Health Department of your local council.

HELP WITH GETTING WORK DONE

A growing number of local organisations have been set up in recent years in response to the needs of elderly people and others on fixed incomes. They can give advice and help to those whose homes are in need of repair and improvement work.

Advice often includes talking over what package of work best suits your needs. This can cover advice on insulation as well as a new heating system. If necessary, they can also



take over the task of applying for grants and loans on your behalf, and getting estimates, finding a surveyor or builder and even keeping an eye on the work as it progresses.

These schemes are run by housing associations, voluntary groups, local authorities and charitable organisations. Advice and help is free. To find out if you have a 'Care and Repair', 'Staying put' or similar scheme in your area, ask at your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Housing Advice Centre.

Don't delay, ask today and make yourself warmer next winter.

HELPLINE

For more energy efficiency advice....

contact Neighbourhood Energy Action
2/4 Bigg Market, Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
NE1 1UW. Tel. 091-261 5677

For grants other than the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme....

contact the Environmental Health Department of your local council.

For services that the fuel industries provide...

contact your local gas or electricity showroom.

In the case of disputes....

contact your Gas Consumers Council or Office of Electricity Regulation (OFFER) - their addresses are on the back of your bill.

For disputes with freehold landlords....

contact your local Housing Advice Centre (run by the Council) or nearest Citizens Advice Bureau.

For pensioners and disabled people who need advice....

contact your nearest Housing Aid Centre or Citizens Advice Bureau and ask if there is a 'Care and Repair' or 'Staying Put' scheme in your area. Or telephone Care and Repair direct on 071-278 7042

Pensioners with heating problems....

A Winter Warmth Line is run from mid October to the end of March each winter by Help-the-Aged, Freephone 0800 289 404 in England and Wales 0800 838 587 in Scotland 0800 616 757 in Northern Ireland

Useful leaflets....

Your home energy survey pack, and **Handy hints to save energy in your home**, are available from Housing Advice Centres, or Energy Efficiency Office, Blackhorse Road, London SE99 6UB. Tel. 081- 691 9000