

Cavity Wall Insulation

The cavity walls of the Visitor Centre have been filled with insulation which reduces the amount of heat lost through the walls.

The installation was a straight forward process and involved the installer drilling small holes (22mm across – slightly smaller than the size of a 10p piece) at around 1m intervals into the outside walls. The insulation was then blown into the cavity.



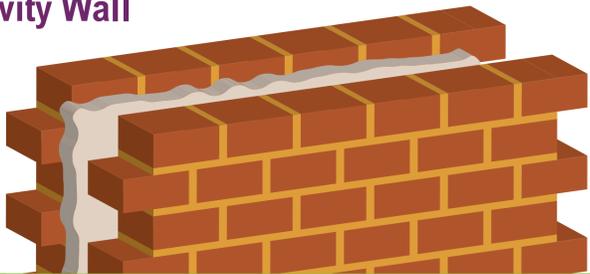
How it Works

Heat loss occurs because heat naturally flows from hot objects or areas to colder ones. During winter, when a building is warmer than the air outside, heat will flow out of the building through poorly insulated solid surfaces such as walls, roofs and windows.

Cavity wall insulation creates a barrier between the inside and outside of the building which reduces the amount of heat being lost through the walls. This helps to save money on heating bills as the heating system won't have to keep switching on to replace the heat escaping through the walls.

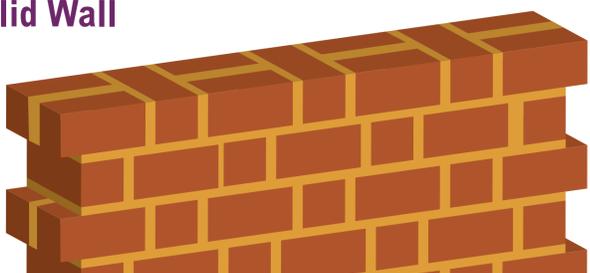


Cavity Wall



[^] Cavity walls typically have only brick lengths visible and have a cavity between two walls where insulation can be added.

Solid Wall



[^] A typical solid brick wall will use a combination of brick ends and lengths. There is no space to add insulation to these walls.



For Your Home

If your home was built after 1930, it is likely to have cavity walls. Cavity walls are made of two layers of brick with a small gap or 'cavity' between them which can often be filled with insulation which can be made from mineral wool, beads, granules or foam. Installing cavity wall insulation can save around 20% on your fuel bill.

If your home has cavity walls but was built after 1995, the walls might already be insulated. An installer can check if you have un-insulated cavity walls and whether your home is suitable for insulation.

If your home has solid walls (pre 1930), they can still be insulated – from the inside by fitting rigid insulation boards to the wall, or by building a stud wall filled in with mineral wool fibre or externally by fixing a layer of insulation material to the wall, then covering it with a special type of render (plasterwork) or cladding. The finish can be smooth, textured, painted, tiled, panelled, pebble-dashed, or finished with brick slips. Solid wall insulation could save you around 60% on your fuel bills.

For more information, please email: sustainability.team@bedford.gov.uk