



Stay Warm this Winter (and save money!)

Insulation FAQ

Why insulate now?

The evenings are getting darker, the weather is getting colder, and you could save £250 a year on your heating bill if you have both cavity wall and loft insulation installed.

Under the current government scheme, the energy companies offer part or full funding for the cost of insulating your home, but these grants are limited and under review.

What is the cost?

You will get a FREE survey from a qualified engineer. Everyone can get a grant of £199 for loft insulation, and a further £199 for cavity wall insulation.

This covers half the costs of a typical installation. If you are over 70, or on certain benefits, you will get a grant to cover 100% of the insulation costs.

Are there any extra costs?

The grants typically cover the cost of insulating a three-bed semi detached house, so if your property is larger there may be more to pay.

Insulation also requires adequate ventilation for the loft, walls and any gas appliances in the home, and this can sometimes incur additional costs. Your surveyor will advise you on what is needed in your home.

How do I arrange insulation?

Call HCL Energy on 01273 390420 to arrange for a FREE survey.

Who is HCL Energy?

HCL Energy is an independent, local energy surveyor, based in Brighton, and recommended by Horsham District Council to provide free home insulation surveys and advice on grants.

Will my home be suitable for insulation?

The surveyor will assess the loft for the current depth of insulation, and check the lagging on hot water tanks and pipes.

For cavity wall insulation, the surveyor will drill a 10mm hole to see if the cavity has previously been insulated. As long as your house has an unfilled cavity between inner and outer walls, the wall can be insulated.

If you live in a flat, the work has to be done on the whole wall, so you can't just insulate one flat in a multi-storey building.

What materials will be used?

For loft insulation, 100 mm of fibreglass is laid between the joists, and then a second layer 150 mm deep crosswise over the top of the first.

For cavity wall insulation, typically the wall is filled with polystyrene beads, sprayed in via a series of holes the size of a 10p piece. Alternative materials are fibreglass or rockwool (a volcanic rock), spun finely like candyfloss.

What if my loft is full of possessions?

Perhaps it's time for a clear out – don't forget the Greening Steyning, Bramber and Beeding Give Your Stuff Away Day on the Sunday after the Farmer's Market.

If you qualify for free insulation, there may be funds available to help you clear the loft. The surveyor can assess this for you.

How long does it take?

Loft insulation can be done in a couple of hours, while cavity wall insulation takes about 3 hours for a 3-bed semi. It is possible to have both jobs done in one day.

Who is doing the work?

HCL Energy will send your order to a local insulation firm, for example RSI in Upper Beeding, who will contact you to arrange the installation date.

What happens if there are problems after the work is done?

Call the installation company who did the work on your home. For small problems, these will be fixed with no extra charge.

Where can I find out more?

More information about energy saving can be found on the [Energy Saving Trust's website](http://www.1010steyning.org)

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