

Draught Proofing



Draught proofing (or draught exclusion) is one of the easiest and most cost-effective methods of cutting energy costs across your premises, particularly in older buildings.

- Draughts or gaps in a building act like unwanted ventilation shafts, allowing cold air to seep in and hot air to escape.
- It can also be very uncomfortable for staff working in draughty areas.
- Since draughts make people feel colder, staff will often then turn up the heating and run it for longer.

Where should I be draught proofing my premises?

You can find draughts just about anywhere in a building that links directly to the outside.

Draughts can come through doors, windows, loft hatches, keyholes, electrical fittings on the ceilings, under the floorboards, piping leading outside and any drilled holes for cabling that leads outside.

Cost savings and benefits

Research by Historic England has shown draught-proofing can reduce air leakage from windows by between 33% and 50%, therefore significantly reducing the heating requirement needed for the room.

A combination of draught proofing actions will lead to an improved level of comfort for staff and an improvement in energy efficiency. Although several of these actions can be implemented in-house, it is worth seeking professional advice for a second opinion.

How can I draught proof my premises?

The best way to deal with these draughts is to close the gaps using draught excluders and to block the holes. In many situations this is something that can be done by a competent DIY-er and draught exclusion kits (in the form of barrier brushes and/or silicon or foam glass seals) can be bought relatively inexpensively (in the region of £10 per metre).

Doors: If you can feel cold air coming in from under an external door, you can fit a weatherbar or a door brush strip. These act as a seal at the bottom of your door when it's closed. They are easy to fit and inexpensive (prices start from around £6).

Letterboxes: Letterbox draught excluders and letterbox plates can also stop cold air getting in without blocking the entrance for your mail (and prices can start at under £10). A keyhole cover is a metallic disc that stops draughts and slides to the side when you put your key in, which again is available very cheaply.

Other draught trouble spots: These include cracks in walls (these can be filled with cement or hard-setting fillers), disused extractor fans (old fan outlets can be filled with bricks or concrete, then sealed), chimneys and fireplaces (if these aren't in use you could fit a cap over the chimney pot or fit a chimney draught excluder) and floorboards and skirting boards.

A guide to implementing draught proofing is available from Historic England [here](#)