



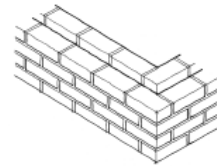
Information about Insulation

What is a cavity wall?

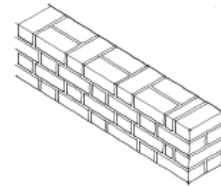
Many houses built after 1900 are constructed with 2 masonry (brick or block) walls with a cavity (gap) between them of approximately 50mm.

How can I tell if my property has a cavity?

Generally, a cavity wall will have bricks lined lengthways like this



Non cavity walls may have end bricks showing like this



If you are interested in cavity wall insulation, a surveyor can come out and drill a small hole in your wall. They will then use a boroscope to check if the wall has a cavity and if it is suitable for cavity wall insulation.

Is my house suitable for cavity wall insulation?

Before installing any insulation a full assessment will be carried out to confirm whether your property is suitable to have CWI. This will be carried out by a surveyor.

Isn't the cavity there for a reason?

The original purpose of a cavity wall was to prevent the spread of damp from the external to internal wall. Using a moisture repellent form of insulation still prevents this.

I live in a timber framed house, can I have CWI?

Unfortunately no, the timber frame requires ventilation around it or it may rot. Installing cavity wall insulation may prevent the ventilation. Other types of insulation are possible for timber framed houses but may prove expensive.



What are the benefits of CWI insulation?

Cavity wall insulation is regarded as one of the most effective energy saving measures that most people can carry out on their homes. In an average house 35% of heat is lost through uninsulated external walls. When insulated this heat loss is reduced, making the house warmer or reducing the amount of fuel required to maintain a comfortable temperature. It saves energy, saves money on fuel bills and reduces carbon dioxide emissions, the main greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. It is easily installed, is a safe and reliable system that has been used for many years and has a proven track record.

I've heard that CWI causes damp problems.

Cavity wall insulation contains a water repellent and so will not allow migration of damp across a cavity. All systems of CWI have been tested, assessed and approved by the British Board of Agrément or the British Standards Institution. Before installing the insulation, the empty wall cavities are inspected for obstructions with a special tool called a boroscope. Any obstructions are noted and cleared by the installers before the insulation is injected

How is CWI installed?

Cavity Wall Insulation is a simple process by which insulation is injected into this cavity through a carefully designed pattern of holes. The insulation system is designed so that any water that does enter the cavity can drain away, whilst the insulation reduces the heat loss through the wall.

How does CWI work?

Heat will always flow from a warm area to a cold one. In winter, the colder it is outside, the faster heat from your home will escape into the surrounding air. Cavity wall insulation slows down the rate at which it escapes, keeping as much of it as possible inside your home for as long as possible. How? Insulation makes it much more difficult for heat to pass through your walls by filling up the cavity with a material with lots of air pockets in it. These pockets greatly reduce what is known as your walls' U value - which is a measure of how quickly they lose heat - from around 1.5 to 0.5 W/m²K. The lower the U value, the slower heat is lost - and the less energy you need to keep your home warm.

How long does it take?

Cavity wall insulation usually takes around 2-3 hours to install, depending on the size of the property and access.



What do I need to do before the installer comes?

The drilling process does create some vibration – so it would be wise to remove ornaments, particularly on external walls, for their safety and your peace of mind.

The Technician will need access to all walls, so he will need to get inside attached garages, lean-to sheds, conservatories etc. The insulation can only be really effective if all walls are done. If you have a wall right on the boundary, you may like to mention to your neighbour, that the Technician will need to go onto their property.

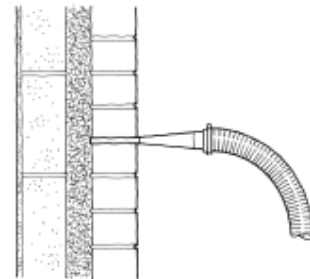
What kind of material is used?

There are a number of different products, or systems, each of which must pass stringent technical requirements laid down by the British Board of Agreement or alternative independent approvals body. All systems are "fit and forget" and require no servicing, maintenance or adjustment.

There are three main systems in common use, and all are suitable for the purpose and (except for UF Foam) can be used in all areas of the UK. CIGA has registered installers, and offers Guarantees for, all 3 products:

Mineral Wool

Mineral Wool insulation is a cotton wool like material produced from either rock wool or glass wool, and is used in the majority of installations.



Polystyrene Bead

Bead is made up of small expanded polystyrene beads normally injected with a binder.

UF Foam

Urea Formaldehyde cavity wall insulation was introduced into the UK in the late 1960's and involves the injection of a water based chemicals system that produces an insulating foam in the cavity



Are some materials better than others?

Different materials can have different qualities. The different insulation materials listed above make similar savings. There are alternatives that can be used which can make larger savings but these come with larger costs.

Will there be a mess?

There's no mess. For cavity wall insulation, the insulators usually don't have to come inside your house

What about the holes in my walls?

All holes are filled with mortar which will match the existing colour and texture as closely as possible. After weathering the holes are difficult to see.

What about wall ties?

Any cavity wall that is not correctly built, e.g. it has poorly filled mortar joints or mortar droppings on the wall ties, is likely to have problems. Good construction and continuing maintenance, such as pointing, are therefore key factors in determining whether a wall is suitable for cavity insulation. This can be identified at survey.

I live in a flat, can I have my cavity walls insulated?

If the entire block of flats is going to get cavity wall insulation, then it is possible. Most cavity wall insulation can be installed in dwellings up to 25 metres in height. In special cases, independent certification bodies have approved cavity wall insulation in walls above 25 metres in height. Each project has to be assessed by the certification body for suitability before approval is given.

I live in a terraced house; can I have my cavity walls insulated?

In a terraced house you can have your front and rear walls insulated providing they have a suitable cavity. Assuming your neighbour's house is not already insulated, the Technician will insert a cavity barrier at the party wall line. This is usually a length of bristle brush. Of course, if the neighbour's house were to be insulated at the same time, the cavity barrier would not be needed

Is mineral wool environmentally friendly?

Mineral Wool is recyclable but not bio degradable. It is a good form of insulation and this can reduce your Carbon footprint.



Will I feel the difference?

Yes – if your heating is not controlled by a thermostat. However, if you have a thermostat, it will cut out the heating at the same temperature, so you may not notice the difference in the room with the thermostat. However, you should find that the temperature in other parts of your house improves, for example, the small bedroom on the corner.

With CWI, you should find that the house holds its temperature for longer; therefore the time between heating cycles may be longer. The result should be a more even temperature throughout the house and / or a reduced fuel bill.

What about the vents in my walls?

Ventilators supplying combustion air to fuel burning appliances must be safeguarded. Similarly ventilators at ground level that ventilate below timber floors must be safeguarded. The Technician will investigate them to check they are already sleeved. If they are not, the Technician will remove them and seal around them to stop them being blocked by the insulation. Other vents, which may be redundant, such as cavity vents or vents that used to supply air to open fires in bedrooms may be closed off. The Technician should discuss these with you. Redundant airbricks may be filled.

I have a garage/conservatory, can I still have CWI?

Before the installation, the installing firm will undertake an assessment of your property to confirm that it is suitable for insulation. This assessment may be undertaken by a surveyor or the Technician before installation. In some cases, where scaffolding or platforms are required; this may incur an additional cost.

Is the work guaranteed?

The Cavity Insulation Guarantee Agency provides independent 25 year guarantees for Cavity Wall Insulation fitted by registered installers in the UK and Channel islands.

How long does it last?

Cavity wall insulation is guaranteed for 25 years and the British Board of Agreement say that insulation should last the life of the building. Cavity wall insulation does not settle or shrink.



I had my walls insulated 20 years ago, will it need topping up?

No, Each system has a defined pattern of holes, which has been tested to verify that it results in a complete fill. Most systems have an automatic cut out, which actuates when the adjacent wall area is full. There is tolerance in the injection pattern so that the material will flow past the next injection hole.

What do I do if there is a problem after the insulation is installed?

First, talk to the installing firm and tell them of your worries. A contract exists between you and the installer, so they must be given the opportunity to investigate your worries. They will help you. If the installer is unable to solve the problem, then contact CIGA in writing, stating the problem and the steps you have taken to have the matter resolved. CIGA will then arrange to investigate the complaint, and where necessary, ensure that the appropriate remedial work is carried out free of charge. Each Guarantee certificate has a unique number that should be quoted on all correspondence

Loft Insulation

What are the benefits of having LI?

Loft insulation is an effective way to save energy and money at home. A well insulated house keeps warmth exactly where you need it - indoors. So, insulating your loft - or topping up any insulation you have already - will help to heat your home more efficiently. Using less energy reduces carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂): one of the biggest causes of climate change. You will also save money on your bills too.

Will I feel the difference?

As with cavity wall insulation (see above), you should find that the house holds its temperature for longer; therefore the time between heating cycles may be longer. The result should be a more even temperature throughout the house and / or a reduced fuel bill.



I've heard that LI causes condensation in lofts.

Not if installed correctly. Care should be taken to ensure that loft insulation does not block existing eaves ventilation. Eaves ventilation becomes more important when loft insulation is present (particularly if there is sarking felt below tiles/slates) because temperature inside loft will generally be lower leading to increased risk of condensation. In many older properties eaves ventilation is not provided deliberately and reliance is made on fortuitous ventilation. In these cases ventilation should be provided when the loft is insulated.

Do I need to clear out my loft?

Yes you will have to clear out your loft before the installer arrives. However, clearing your loft is a great opportunity to see what you have hiding up there – things to recycle, others to sell, and maybe some nostalgic items to treasure all over again.

My loft is boarded; can I still have loft insulation?

If you already have a boarded area of no more than a third of the loft area the installers will work around it and leave it uncovered.

I have no/a small loft hatch, can LI still be installed?

Your loft hatch may need to be enlarged to enable the contractor to install the insulation. The installer may be able to provide you with a quote for the additional cost for this work.