

Locate source of draught – find where the air gets through into the building and target that area, rather than where it is felt in the building. Then fit the most appropriate product to eliminate the air getting in.



Where **not** to draught proof:

- Any room with gas or wood burning appliance
- Extractor fans
- Under-floor grilles
- Wall vents
- Trickle vents in windows
- Other places....



Also test Carbon Monoxide detector.

Less draught more *controlled* ventilation

- Open windows when needed– kitchen and bathrooms especially.
- Use extractors and install new ones
- Reduce sources of moisture – lids on pans
- Watch for damp problems.
- Increase ventilation to avoid damp and mould forming. Plan where clothes and towels dry.
- Consider a simple humidity meter to check damp levels.
- Don't forget the many other straight forward energy saving improvements that you can do.



Draught Proofing Products

Door seal

Well fitted. The door still closes properly. Seal is trimmed if necessary around the handle. Trimmed in corners to get proper fit with no gaps. Choice of colours to suit frame, door and fittings.



<p>Brush fitting under door. Quick and easy to fit.</p>	
<p>Door – Brush seal. Other seals to use here could be Vseal or other foam seals. Depending on the size of the gap. Always clean the frame thoroughly, removing all dust, so the strip sticks on well.</p>	

Area	What to do
Windows	Use foam, metal or plastic draught strips, or brush seals for sash windows.
Exterior doors	Fit external door seal, brush or hinged-flap draught excluders, fitted along the bottom of the doors.
Interior doors	Cut draughts with 'snake' draught excluders (photo, right), brushes or similar strips of material.
Unused chimneys	Chimney balloons are available from CAFS. Plastic bags stuffed with other plastic bags also work – remember to remove before lighting fire and also remove in summer.
Floorboards and skirting boards	Fill the gaps with flexible fillers, clear or brown silicone mastic, decorators' caulk or similar products.
Cracks in walls	Use cement or a hard-setting decorators' wall-filler.
Redundant extractor-fan outlets	Consider blocking them up. Also do existing extractors have a flap that closes tight when switched off?
Loft hatches	Use strips of draught excluding material fitted around the edges of the frame, and don't forget to insulate the hatch itself.
Around pipework	Apply silicone mastic, wall-filler or expanding foam as appropriate.
Lighting and electrical fittings	Plug the gaps around the fittings with wall-filler.
Letterboxes	Fit flaps or brushes to keep the cold air out and the warm air in. See over for instructions.
Windows	Use foam, metal or plastic draught strips, or brush seals for sash windows.
Exterior doors	Fit external door seal, brush or hinged-flap draught excluders, fitted along the bottom of the doors.

How to fit a door brush

First, use a tape measure to measure the width of the door and cut the brush to the right length.

Then position the brush against the door so that the brush is just touching the floor. Using a pencil, make guide marks on the door through the pre-drilled holes in the excluder to show where the screws will go.

Next drill pilot holes in the points you marked and loosely screw the excluder in place.

Open and close the door to ensure it creates a good seal before tightening the screws or adjusting the height if necessary. The excluder should not be placed so low that it makes it difficult to open or close the door!

How to fit a letterbox draught-excluder

First, place the draught-excluder over your letterbox and use a pencil to mark the fixing points through the pre-drilled holes. Maybe a friend could hold the draught-excluder in place while you check that letters can pass through it.

Drill pilot holes at the points you marked and loosely screw the draught-excluder onto the door.

Check that letters can pass through the brushes before tightening the screws, adjusting its position if necessary.

How to seal a window or door using foam-seal

Start by cutting off a 50-60mm piece of the foam draught excluder to use as a test strip. Stick this to the door or window frame (not the door or window itself), as close as possible to the edge nearest you.

Close the door or window and slip a credit card between the test strip and the door. It should be a comfortable fit. If you have to force it, then the excluder is probably too thick; if the credit card is loose and falls out, then the excluder is probably too thin. Once you've done the test, remove the test strip.

When you're satisfied that you have the right thickness of foam excluder, measure the frame of your door or window and cut the excluder to the required lengths using a pair of scissors.

Clean and dry the door or window frame to ensure the adhesive sticks properly, then apply the foam strip to the door or window frame, as near to the edge as possible, checking that it isn't difficult to open or close the door or window!

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Cumbria Action for Sustainability work to promote low carbon living, energy saving and reduced use of fossil fuels throughout Cumbria; we provide information, advice and motivation through events, site visits and practical projects.

