

Autumn Building Maintenance



What has building maintenance and repairs got to do with energy?

It's important to fix small problems and make energy-saving changes to your home before thinking about bigger projects.

But why?

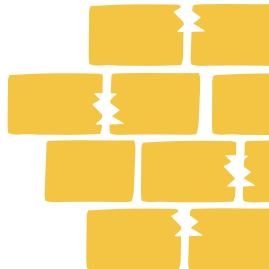
- **Heat escapes through cracks and gaps:** If there are cracks in your walls, doors, or windows, heat can escape, which makes your home colder. You'll need to use more energy to stay warm.
- **Water damage and damp:** Cracks, broken gutters, and downpipes can let water into your walls. This can lead to damp patches, which can cause mould. Over time, water can damage your walls, floors, and ceilings. If floor and ceiling beams get wet, they can rot and even collapse.
- **Wet walls and floors lose heat faster:** When walls and floors are damp, your home will lose heat more quickly, making it harder to stay warm.



Here's a list of things to check to help protect your home and save energy:

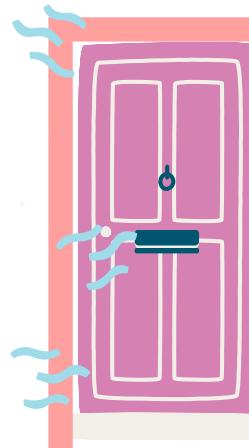
1 Check the walls from outside

If your house has brick or stone walls, look for cracks or missing mortar (the stuff that holds the bricks together). Rain can get in, freeze, and make the cracks worse. If you see this, hire a builder to fix it.



2 Check doors and windows

Is the door hard to shut? Water might be making the wood swell, or paint might be peeling. Make sure there are no gaps between doors or windows and their frames, and check the draught seals. If these are damaged, heat can escape. You can fix this yourself or hire a handyman.

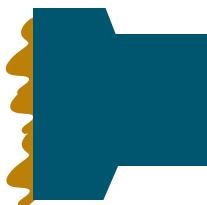


3 Check vents and extractor fans

Dust or grease can block extractor fans, making them less efficient. This can lead to stale air, and the fans might become noisier.



Turn off the mains power and clean the fans with a vacuum or damp cloth, but check the instructions for specific advice.



4 Check the roof

Look for missing or slipped roof tiles. If you find any, hire a roofer to fix them.

5 Check the chimney from inside.

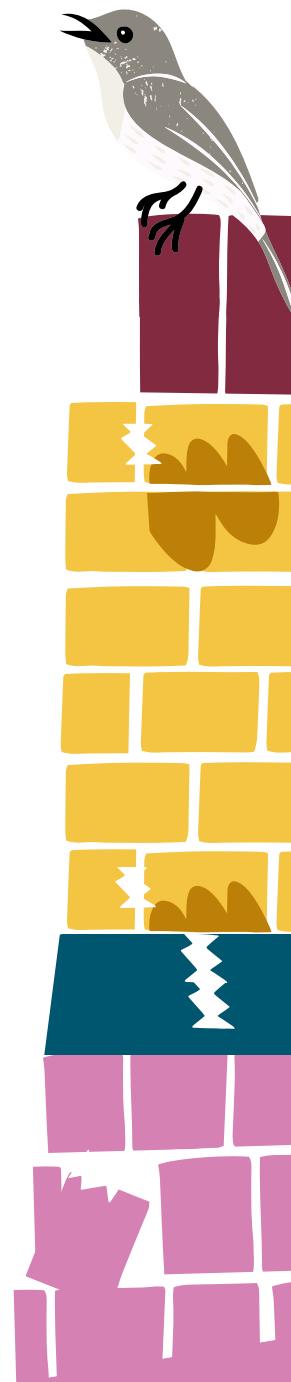
Look for damp spots in your roof space or upstairs rooms. Water could be coming in through damaged mortar or broken flashings (the protective strip where the roof meets the chimney).

6 Check the chimney from outside.

Have you seen birds sitting on your chimney?

Birds like jackdaws often nest in chimneys, which can block them. This could cause smoke to back up into your home or even start a fire. Hire a chimney sweep to clear it, and add a bird guard to prevent future nests.

If you don't use the chimney at all, you can install a chimney balloon, which helps keep cold air out and stops heat from escaping through the chimney, keeping your home warmer.



7 Check gutters and downpipes

These carry rainwater off your roof. If you notice water streaming down your walls or a "waterfall" effect during heavy rain, the pipes might be blocked or broken. This could cause water to soak into your walls.

If water isn't draining properly, there might be a blockage. This could lead to water backing up and seeping into your floors and walls..

8 Check the drains

If water isn't draining properly, there might be a blockage. This could lead to water backing up and seeping into your floors and walls.

Taking care of these things helps keep your home warm and safe, while also saving energy.

For Further information

Come along to our **Energise Manchester** events to learn how to save energy and take care of your home.

Find out what events are happening near you! Just scan the QR code to find out more.

