

Draughtproofing

Draughtproofing windows, doors, floors, loft hatches and chimneys is a good move and is inexpensive to do. Although foam strip is cheap, it will only last a couple of years, and it is a better investment to purchase rubber strip similar to



that shown. This is available in P and E styles which mimic the cross section view: E is shown here.

Available in brown and white the E section is for small gaps and P for larger ones. The strip should cover most windows and doors.

For Chimneys, a chimney balloon can be purchased or a bin bag stuffed with old clothing or newspaper would do.

The aim must be to stop draughts, NOT to stop all air from entering the house.

Ventilation

Some ventilation **is** necessary. Building Regulations now insist that every new or replaced window should have trickle vents in them to maintain a healthy environment. In addition, if you have a cooker hood or an extractor fan, the air has to come from somewhere, so allow for that. A sealed house is not what we should seek to achieve. Similarly, if you light a fire, or a gas hob, you need fresh air into the house. Boilers without a balanced flue, fires, and gas cookers all need air to work and lack of it can mean that the fuel burns to give off poisonous carbon monoxide rather than CO₂.

You don't want the house to feel stuffy or to harm the family.