

# MAKING YOUR HOUSE WARM



**HOAP**

HOME OWNERS' ADVICE PAMPHLETS





## FITTING A CEILING

This is the most important way to protect your house or shack from cold and hot weather. In summer it keeps out the heat. In winter you will need less heat to make the room comfortable, so a ceiling saves heating costs.

### BEFORE FITTING A CEILING

- Make sure your roof is waterproof. Repair all leaks with bitumen or another sealant. Close the gaps between the tops of the walls and the roof with beamfill.
- Build air bricks (air vents) into the roof end walls or gables. Cover the vent holes with wire mesh to stop birds and rats getting into the roof space.

### FITTING A CEILING

- Choose a suitable ceiling material - good cardboard, or gypsum board or other board. Use big-headed nails to fix it to a wood structure (for example batons).
- The wood structure must be level and not too far apart, (maximum 600mm), to prevent the ceiling from sagging. Use a string stretched under the wood to check if it is level. If it is not level add a wedge or another strip of wood to make it level.
- After nailing the sealing boards, seal the joints with suitable tape. Fix the gaps to the wall with wooden strips (beading or cornices).
- If you cannot afford a wooden structure then use tight stretched wire to support the ceiling boards.

### INSULATING YOUR CEILING

Once you have installed a ceiling you can insulate it to save more on heating costs. Use insulation such as polyester (Isotherm), glass-fibre (Aerolite) or cellulose (treated wood chips). Cover the whole ceiling.



## FITTING GOOD CURTAINS AND CARPETS

- Good curtains help keep warm air in during winter, and out during summer. They should cover the whole window area, and they should be made with thick material and with lining (layers).
- Carpets make the floor feel warmer, and prevent cold coming through the floor.

### SEAL ALL GAPS, HOLES AND CRACKS

- Even small gaps, cracks and holes help warm air to escape, and lets cold air and wind get into your house. Most gaps are around windows and doors, under doors, at roof joints, air vents and where nails, bolts and pipes go through the roof or walls.
- Seal gaps, holes and cracks with a suitable exterior and interior filler such as polyfiller.



# THE MOST IMPORTANT ADVICE IS

- FIT AND INSULATE YOUR CEILING
- SEAL ROOMS AGAINST THE WEATHER
- REPLACE BROKEN WINDOWS



## SEALING ROOMS AGAINST WEATHER

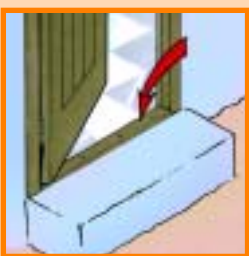
### Weather stripping around a door or window frame

You can buy weather stripping (readymade, self-sticking, soft plastic strips) from hardware shops and builders' suppliers. Buy the wood or metal stripping suitable for the windows and door types in your house. Clean the surface carefully, cut the stripping to the required length, and push firmly into place.

### Weather-proofing under outside doors

To stop air escaping or blowing in under doors, fix a threshold or a weather board.

- Threshold: Screw a piece of hard wood such as meranti into the floor under the door, in-line with the door frame.
- Wooden weather-board: Cut the weather-board to the right width, and screw it to the bottom of the door so that it will cover the gap. Remember, the door must be able to open and close without getting stuck.
- Aluminium weather-strip: Follow the instructions which come with this. Cut the weather-strip to the correct width with a hacksaw, and screw it to the bottom of the door to close the gap to the floor.



## REPLACING BROKEN WINDOW PANES



### Tools

- A ruler or tape measure
- Some old newspapers
- Chisel or large screwdriver
- Hammer
- Old paint brush
- Glass-cutter
- Straight metal edge
- Putty knife / paint scraper
- Correct putty for metal or wood frames
- Replacement glass
- Gloves to protect your hands.



### Remove the old glass

- Carefully remove the pieces of broken glass and putty from the window frame.
- Make sure the frame is clean before you measure and fit new glass.



### Measure and cut the new (replacement) glass

- Take the measurement for the replacement glass on the inside of the frame. Subtract 4mm from these measurements to get the correct size required.
- A hardware shop can cut the glass for you. Tell them the exact size, or give them a piece of cardboard cut to the correct size.
- If you have a glass-cutter and a straight metal edge, you can cut the glass on a layer of newspapers. First mark the correct measurements on the glass. Make sure the corners are right-angles and scratch (scribe) one side of the glass with the glass cutter. Put the glass with the scratched side upwards on the newspaper with match sticks under the scratched line. Tap the glass firmly with the back end of the glass-cutter to break it cleanly along the scratched line.



### Fit the new (replacement) glass

- Use the old paint brush to clean where the glass will be fitted.
- Soften a big handful of putty in your hands. Press a thin layer of putty evenly onto the back of the frame.
- Carefully push the piece of glass against the back putty.
- Press putty into the corner between the glass and the edge of the frame to hold the glass in place.
- Using the putty knife, press and cut the extra putty to make a straight, smooth slope.
- Do not paint the new putty for at least two weeks.



## ALSO SEE OTHER PAMPHLETS ABOUT:

- Improving energy use in your home
- Planting trees and vegetable gardens
- Preventing cracks and damp in your house

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