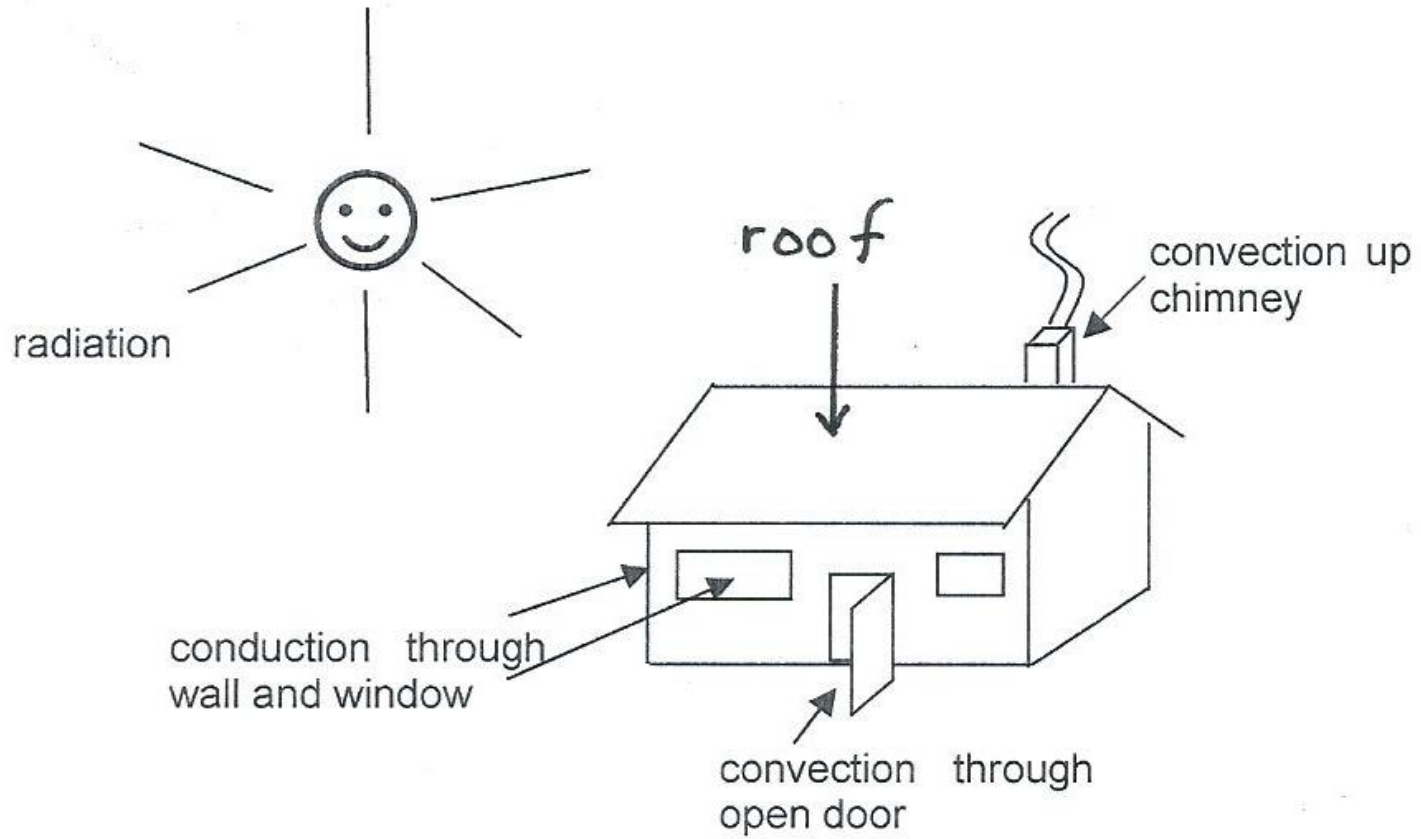


Creating warmer homes



2 Benefits of warmer homes

- Higher level of thermal comfort
- Less condensation
- Healthier living conditions
- Less respiratory and pneumonia illnesses
- Lowers heating bills
- Lengthens life of building fabric
- Reduces green house gases leading to climate change



3 Simple low cost solutions

- Reduce draughts by fitting draught excluder to window and door frames
- Adjust thermostatic radiator valves (if fitted) so living room is warmer and other less used rooms cooler
- Reduce central heating water temperature so operating system for longer times at lower temperatures
- Consider changing energy suppliers



4 Fit draught excluder to doors and windows



5 Busting Draughts Around Doors



External draft strip around door

Soft bead seals against door

Cost around £25 Some DIY skills needed

Can be effective – many different designs

Internal Brush Strip

Not very effective



6 Adjust radiator valves

Adjust thermostatic radiator valves, if fitted, so that living room is warmer and other rooms are colder except when in use



7 Adjust thermostat on boiler

Reducing central heating water temperature by adjusting thermostat on boiler.

This will reduce standing losses in pipework supplying radiators



8 Restore radiator efficiency

- Are some of your radiator areas cold to touch or do your radiators need bleeding to let out entrapped gases?
- Then corrosion is occurring between your central heating water and heating systems so your heating bill will be higher than it should be
- To increase heat output and ensure radiators are uniformly warm , ensure that your heating engineer adds a small quantity of corrosion limiting inhibitor whenever your boiler is serviced
- Take up Vexo's free offer of 3 year supply of inhibitor/descaler

9 Install loft insulation

- Easy to access and measure thickness of insulation
- Top up if less than 200 mm
- DIY possible as insulation rolls are lightweight and easy to lay once loft is cleared of storage items
- Board over before replacing any items stored in the loft
- Ensure that there is still sufficient ventilation to prevent condensation



10 Why owners should act now

- Condensation and mould can affect the health of the occupants
- Simple measures that everyone can take to reduce heat loss
- So it makes sense to create warmer homes now and increase the life of the building fabric
- Saves energy costs in times of rising prices
- Insulation standard of rented properties will have to increase energy performance from level F to level C in the next 6 years



11 Rights of tenants

- Tenants have a right to live in healthy homes
- So if your home suffers mould and/or damp, contact your landlord and request measures be taken to create warmer homes
- Explain benefits of low cost measures to owner using warmer homes leaflets downloadable from www.readingcan.org.uk
- If necessary contact Winter Watch at RBC or Citizens Advice

Bureau



12 Citizens Advice Reading

Keep warm in winter, save money all year

The energy team can help with reducing the cost of energy bills:

- Find the cheapest supplier for you - **save around £200 a year**
- Apply to grants, benefits or discounts for you
- Saving energy tips - help you **save over £300 a year** by making simple changes in the home

We also have a consumer online course to help you further reduce your energy costs: <https://uk.stepenergy.eu/>

For more advice, visit: rcab.org.uk/energy and our [Youtube](#). Or book an appointment with us:

@ energy@citizensadvicereading.org  0808 278 7819

13 Switch energy suppliers

Save around £200 a year

citizens
advice

Energy Comparison

Compare gas and electricity prices

Get started >

About our energy comparison service

You can use our price comparison tool to compare prices from different energy suppliers.

You'll need the name of your supplier and tariff - this will be on your energy bill.

You can get a more accurate quote if you know your annual consumption - this is the amount of gas or electricity you've used over the last year, measured in kilowatt hours (kwh). Find this on your annual statement if you have one.

Energy guides & advice

Switch energy supplier

Save money on your gas and electricity

Choosing the right energy tariff

Switching energy supplier if you're a tenant

Switching energy supplier if you're in debt

Check if you're affected by an energy price cap

No one compares more UK energy suppliers



14 Winter watch (RBC)

If you are a Reading citizen and on low income and are either

- over 60 or have very young children or have disability or health concern or have never lived independently

Then winter watch can provide general advice;

- Add residents to energy companies priority list
 - Assist with applying for £140 warmer homes discount;
 - Provide emergency credit
 - Assist with draft proofing
-
- www.reading.gov.uk/housing phone 0118 937 3747



15 Rent guarantee scheme for private renting

Advantages for Reading residents, landlords and letting agents include –

Rent is paid on due date even if resident is unable to pay

Provides emergency cover for boiler stoppages or breakdowns

Covers damage greater than £500

www.reading.gov.uk/housing/private-renting/rent-guarantee-scheme-rgs phone 0118 937 2165



16 What to do next?

- Identify sources of heat loss and undertake zero or low cost measures
- For draught busting contact www.readinguk.org/draughtbusters
- Take up Vexo's free offer of inhibitor/descaler for 3 years supply
email voucher@vexoint.com
- Contact Reading Citizens Advice Bureau regarding grants and help
- Contact RBC regarding Winter Watch and Rent Guarantee Scheme
- Download information leaflets from www.readingcan.org.uk

17 Information leaflet set

- Creating warmer homes Do it yourself warmth check
- Reducing ventilation losses
- Restoring radiation efficiency
- Upgrading insulation to reduce heat loss
- Getting the work done
- Preparing buildings for low carbon heating
- Low carbon heating via heat pumps
- Solar electricity generation and solar heated water

