

innovative insulation

Hard to heat

Mould growth Consultants puts forward a solution for the insulation of solid wall dwellings

As more and more cavities are filled, and lofts topped up, builders will have to turn their attention to the solid wall properties in order to achieve the Governments targets of reducing CO² emissions.

Up to yet solid wall properties have largely been ignored since it is far easier and cheaper to fill a cavity than to insulate solid wall dwellings. However, there are a vast amount of solid wall properties in the UK, over 10 million, consisting of solid brick, solid stone, pre 1944 timber frame and non-traditional concrete. In addition, there are some cavity walls which, for technical reasons or location, cannot be filled.

Homing instinct

Solid wall homes are generally energy inefficient having much lower SAP ratings than corresponding cavity constructed properties. An unfilled cavity wall loses approximately 35% of heat and a solid wall loses a staggering 45-50%.

There are two other major problems associated with solid wall properties – fuel poverty and health. Currently in the UK it is estimated that there are up to three million households in fuel poverty and 66%, nearly two million, live in solid wall homes.

Some 83% of the fuel poor are vulnerable householders; older people, families with children and those who are disabled or have long-term illness. In other words, the most vulnerable families live in the most fuel inefficient properties. Many families do not, and cannot, spend enough to reach even the minimum standard of comfort.

An adequate temperature is taken to be the World Health Organisation standard of 21°C in living rooms and 18°C in other rooms. Despite the amount of energy work undertaken so far, when outdoor temperatures in the UK are 2°C or less, 18% of homes have living rooms below 16°C.

Finding a solution

Solid wall homes are more prone to



condensation, resulting in black mould growth on the walls and ceilings, and a very serious health risk. For solid wall homes there is now a system available which is easy to use, non disruptive and can be easily installed.

Sempatap Thermal is approved by the Energy Saving Trust as an energy saving product and qualifies for EEC funding. It has been awarded the status of an EST “Recommended” product. The product is thermal insulation on a roll, as simple as wallpaper to apply and, at only 10mm thick, does not cause significant disruption during installation. It can be used for insulating solid walls as well as on ceilings – flat concrete ceilings, mansard roofs and dormer ceilings. It can also be applied to solid stone and solid concrete.

■ For further information on Mould Growth Consultants use the readerlink number below...

Readerlink enquiry 343

APPLICATION

Firstly, prepare the walls to be insulated – if there is black mould growing on the walls and ceilings this must be treated strictly in accordance with Moulded Growth Consultant’s specification for the eradication of mould growth.



Apply Sempatap Adhesive by roller, brush or notched trowel to ceiling/wall surface. Only apply the adhesive to one drop length area at a time. For subsequent lengths apply the adhesive not only to the wall/ceiling area but also to the edge of the previously hung length of the product.



Apply foam side to the wall. Roll up the cut length with the foam side facing out. Apply the insulation to the wet adhesive at the top of the wall or at the junction of the ceiling and wall. Smooth out with light level hand pressure. When in required position, apply firm hand pressure and using Sempatap Spatula smooth out any air pockets.



Continue application until wall/ceiling is covered leaving a narrow gap 1-2mm between each drop. Using a Stanley knife, or similar, and the Sempatap Spatula as a straight edge, cut off any excess at ceiling level and at junction with skirting.

Gun Sempatap Sealant into all vertical joints and use to achieve a neat finish at wall/ceiling junctions and in window reveals.

