

Insulation to help residents wrap up warm this winter

Official figures suggest that more than 900,000 families across the UK struggled to pay their heating bills in 2012, a figure that is set to grow this winter, with energy companies' recent price rises. Harjit Sandhu, domestic specification sector manager at British Gypsum, explores how registered providers (RPs) can help residents overcome fuel poverty and stay warm in the winter months.

With energy bill rises and stormy weather hitting the headlines in the last few weeks, fuel poverty is well and truly back on the agenda. The number of 'fuel poor' households whose energy bills cost more than 10 per cent of their income, have grown steadily in recent years as living standards have declined and inflation increased. In addition, up to eight million homes in the UK have solid rather than cavity walls, only three per cent of which are insulated, meaning many use more energy than they would otherwise need.

Being unable to afford to heat their homes doesn't just mean families struggle to stay warm in winter; it can cause other serious problems as well. Persistent low indoor temperatures result in damp rooms, providing a breeding ground for mould, the spores of which can lead to long-term respiratory issues. So to safeguard residents' health, it is critical that RPs help them lower their energy bills to more affordable levels by ensuring that their housing stock has adequate insulation.

Insulating against fuel poverty

Fortunately, there is support available for RPs to improve insulation in their housing stock. The Energy Companies Obligation (ECO), for example, introduced this year, provides funding for RPs to enhance the thermal efficiency of homes in the UK's most deprived areas. In addition, manufacturers, such as British Gypsum, are on hand with advice to help RPs use their resources effectively, and ensure the best results for their residents.

To boost the thermal efficiency of their housing stock – particularly their solid wall homes – it is crucial that RPs make the most of this support by sourcing high performance insulation systems that are easy to install to minimise disruption for residents.

British Gypsum has worked to develop effective solutions to achieve this, such as its range of BBA approved systems which accommodate a

variety of surface backgrounds. The systems include DriLyner RF, DriLyner TL, GyLyner Universal and GyLyner IWL. These specific solutions are designed to make it simpler for the trade to choose suitable internal wall insulation (IWI) systems for Green Deal and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) projects and then install them effectively as part of energy saving measures under the scheme. To complement this British Gypsum has also created a new range of IWI training courses, to assist apprentices and professionals to boost their knowledge of the scheme by being trained on certified products.



Put into Practice

Putting these principles into practice, Derby Homes recently worked with British Gypsum to upgrade the insulation of 450 of its 700 solid wall homes. The ALMO and manufacturer collaborated to carefully select the most appropriate solutions for its needs, opting for Gyproc Thermaline SUPER. This plasterboard solution combined a high-performance insulating foam with an advanced vapour control layer to minimise indoor condensation and reduce the risk of mould growth. Installed across its properties, Derby Homes was able to improve thermal efficiency and help its residents substantially reduce their energy bills.



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Green Deal and ECO

CO₂ emission reduction through Internal Wall Insulation

- We have BBA Certified Internal Wall Insulation systems that meet the Green Deal and ECO requirements
- As a co-founding member of SWIGA (Solid Wall Insulation Guarantee Agency) we provide a 25 year system guarantee to SWIGA registered installers
- Through partnership with CITB, we have developed grant supported installation upskilling courses that meet Green Deal, ECO, PAS2030 and associated standards

To find out how British Gypsum can support you with your Green Deal and ECO requirements visit

www.britishgypsum.com/sustainability and download our Green Deal brochure.

For more information on how British Gypsum can support you please visit www.british-gypsum.com/sustainability.

