

Sustainability Guide

Each Home Counts

A New Approach Into the Energy Efficiency - Bonfield Review

On Friday, 16th December Bonfield review was published under the new title "Each Home Counts". It covers five different areas by asking industry experts from across the UK to participate on each of the designated work streams. It sets out 27 recommendations to boost uptake of energy efficiency measures.

This review looks at the existing framework of standards for the installations of energy efficiency or renewable energy measures. Majority of installations are successful but there are cases where consumers are not satisfied. The aim of this review is to provide the consistent, robust standards for consumers to encourage investment in retrofits and protect consumers. It make recommendations on what measures should be taken to properly protect and advise consumers when they install energy efficiency and renewable energy measures in their homes.

The Secretaries of State for DECC and DCLG, Amber Rudd and Greg Clark have commissioned Dr Peter Bonfield to chair an Independent Review of Consumer Advice, Protection, Standards and Enforcement for UK home energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.

In brief the reports recommends:

- The need for a new quality mark for the domestic retrofit, for all energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, and for all companies operating in this sector. It will work in similar manner to the highly recognised and trusted sector brands and in conjunction with others like the Gas Safe Register, TrustMark and Kitemark. Currently on the market there are numbers of schemes, brands, certification bodies and organisations operating across the energy efficiency and renewable energy sector what confuses both consumers and companies.
- Installers, designers and assessors will be approved by the approved certification body and will be required to adhere to the new Code of Conduct, Code of Practice and Consumer Charter.
- Code of Conduct - will consist of core requirements on how companies operate and how can be certified covering sales practices, pre-contractual information, protection for installers, etc.
- Code of Practice - will consist of standards on installations and assessments
- Consumer Charter - will sets out what the consumer can expect including the appropriate protection and rules including response times, redress processes and financial protections, alternative resolution processes.

- Promote the energy efficiency and renewable energy programmes and their values for consumers.

Access for a guidance for consumers:

- Launching an Information HUB as a first port of call for advice and guidance.
- Launching a Data Warehouse as a first port of call for property-level data and information, including Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs). EPCs are recognised as the important measure of the energy efficiency.
- Develop services and tools linked to the Information Hub and Data Warehouse to provide advice and to enable engagement with all consumers.
- Develop an overarching standards framework document for the end-to-end delivery of retrofit of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.
- Establish a Retrofit Standards Task Group to address the standards needs in the retrofit sector.
- Ensure the core knowledge is embed into qualifications, training courses and apprenticeships.
- Reduce the poor practice by the compliance checks on the quality of assessors, installers and designers.
- Launch a strong consumer-facing brand in the form of a new quality mark, which pro-

- provides effective redress for the consumer.
- Establish an organisation to develop and oversee the quality mark including enforcement and consumer protection related activities.
- Insist that all retrofit projects will have an appropriate design stage process which takes a holistic approach, taking into account the home, surroundings, occupancy, heritage, retrofit plan, etc.
- Gather information and the design specification ahead of any installation of insulation and fabric measures to be stored in the Data Warehouse to facilitate continuous improvement,
- Provide tailored home energy efficiency advice to consumers during the smart meter installation visit.
- Ensure the skills of smart meter installers deliver a safe and efficient roll-out.
- Get industry to work together to ensure that smart meters can be installed in as many properties as possible.
- Undertake a review of all technologies and develop action plans for each technology to align with them with the new Framework.

- Develop a set of independent, impartial advice documents for both consumers and the supply chain covering each technology.
- Ensure any new approval process facilitates the entrance of new technologies.
- Develop new standards to cover the efficient adoption of new home energy technologies.
- Involve Housing Associations to ensure that the framework applies to the delivery of improvements in their housing stock, allowing energy efficiency and renewable energy measures to be installed at scale.

How this affect installers?

- New Quality Mark and requirement to adhere to a Consumer Charter, Code of Practice and Code of Conduct
- Focus on quality and Requirement of the certification by the accredited body
- New information HUB and Data Warehouse for guidance, standards, statistics, information, etc.
- Smart Meters - every home and small business in Great Britain will be offered a smart meter by the end of 2020
- Focus on consumer protection

NPTC Group of Colleges' Head of Building Engineering Services, Peter Snowball stated: "If adopted by the government, this will have a major influence on what happens in the area of skills training and development of qualifications. At present we are the only Further Education provider in the UK to be involved with the review and at the last meeting, NPTC Group of College's contribution was referred to as 'excellent' with Further Education training now forming a valuable and integral part of the way forward." Head of Building Engineering Services, Peter Snowball, represents NPTC Group of Colleges as the only Further Education provider in the UK to sit on the Bonfield Review into the energy efficiency of buildings.

(Source: Each Home Counts: Review of Consumer Advice, Protection, Standards and Enforcement for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy)



BEAM AND BLOCK FLOOR

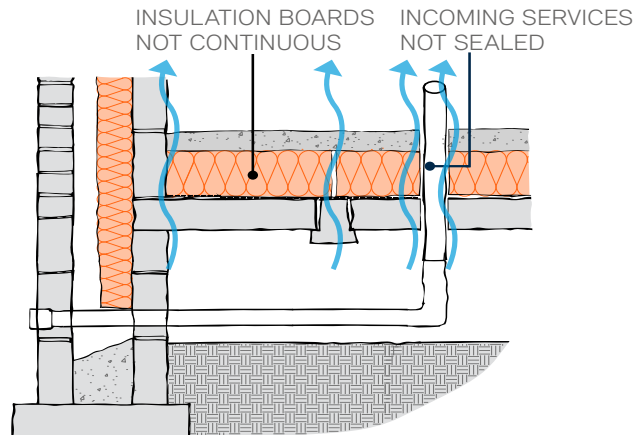


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PROBLEM TO AVOID

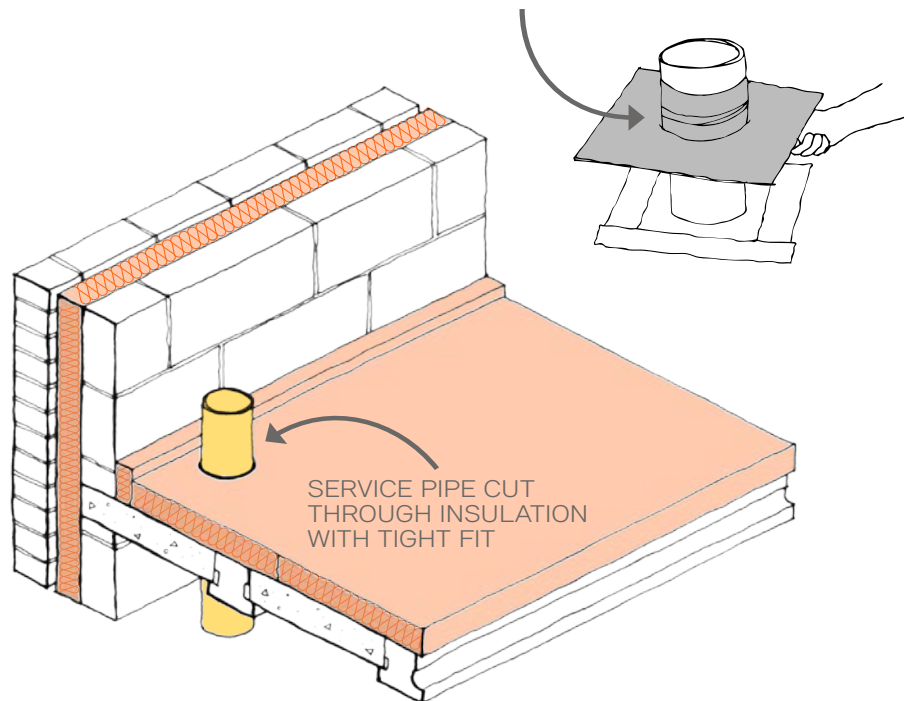
GAPS IN FLOOR INSULATION



WHAT TO DO?

- Overlay floor insulation with a separating layer (DPM) to prevent screed bleeding through joints
- Fit horizontal floor insulation tight with no gaps between boards
- Install perimeter floor insulation down to the base of concrete floor and tight to blockwork
- Cut through insulation layer with no gaps. If possible, 'core drill' hole to tight fit
- Restrain perimeter floor insulation to prevent 'floating' during screed pour
- Prevent screed bridging the perimeter insulation

WITH GAS MEMBRANES, USE PROPRIETARY TOP HAT UNIT AND TAPE TO SEAL PIPES AND MEMBRANE



GOOD PRACTICE

Fit insulation boards tightly and seal all penetrations



DOOR THRESHOLD

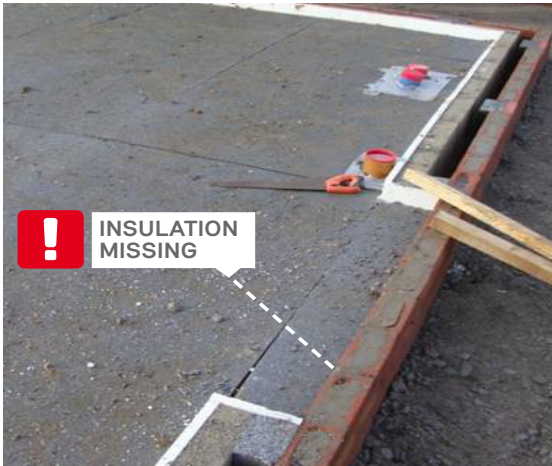


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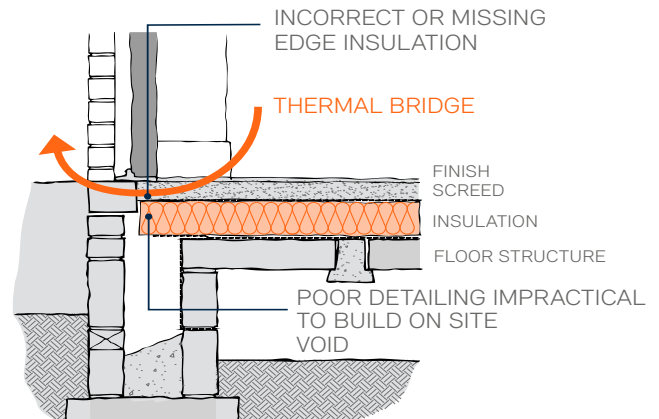


PROBLEM TO AVOID

MISSING EDGE INSULATION



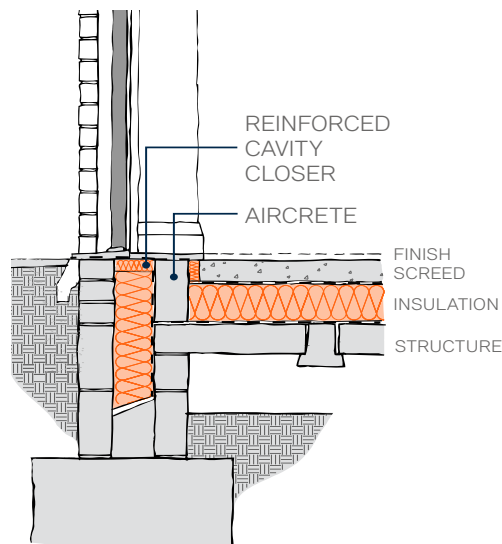
SCREED BRIDGING THRESHOLD



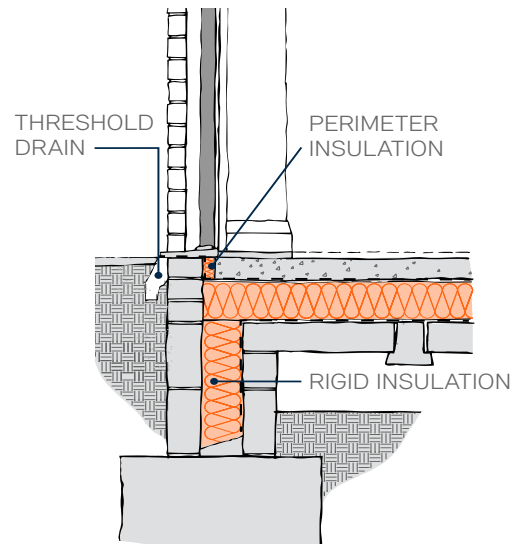
WHAT TO DO?

- Follow the detail drawing or speak with Architect / technical team
- Install a thermal break at the threshold – at least 25mm high performance insulation
- Install damp proof membrane, gas membranes and separating layer as necessary
- Overlap door with cavity by at least 50mm
- Ensure airtight seal under door

OPTION 1 REINFORCED CAVITY CLOSER



OPTION 2 INSULATION AT DOOR THRESHOLD



GOOD PRACTICE

50mm thick insulation at door threshold or reinforced cavity closer

Please print and use in your site office,
for further information www.zerocarbonhub.org



Pollard
Thomas
Edwards

Extract from Zero Carbon Hub publication