

1940s terraced house: External wall insulation

Emma lives with her husband and three young children in a 1940s house in Bath. The house has a metal frame construction and needed complete renovation when they moved in. “The previous owner was over 100, and the house had the original back boiler and no central heating” she says “so we had to do everything.”

The house didn’t have cavity walls, so Emma and her husband decided on external wall insulation. “We were going to get the house rendered anyway, so it made sense. We knew about it already because friends and family had it.”



They also looked at PVC cladding, as some neighbours had installed it, but that would have been more expensive than external insulation.

The house is in a conservation area, so Emma had to apply for planning permission to change the exterior appearance. “The Energy at Home team gave me a contact in the planning team if I needed it, but I sorted it out myself with help from a friend” she says “and the grant process was really easy.” The grant money covered around 75% of the costs.

The work took 2 months and was finished in time for Christmas. “As it was winter it was muddy because of the weather” she says “so if I did it again I’d go for summer, but the house was being renovated anyway so we just got on with it.”

The look of the house was important to Emma. “We’d put lots of effort into the inside but the outside still looked really tired. Now it looks really smart.” She’s noticed a huge difference inside the house too. “It’s a really warm house” she says. “We put radiators in upstairs but we’ve never needed to put them on.”

“Our bills for this 3-bed house are less than our old 2-bed house. I’ve already recommended Energy at Home to several neighbours, and I’m really happy with it” she smiles.