



INSULATION FOR STONE WALLS – USING AN INSULATION COMPANY

If there is no wall insulation at present, 35 % of the heat from your home would be lost through the walls. So insulation measures would be very effective.

More good contractors providing wall insulation are becoming available. A new initiative to bring about a major expansion in solid wall insulation (SWI) industry capacity is being developed. The scheme will cover external and internal wall insulation. This will cover quality assurance, skills and training and consumer protection, including a new independent SWI guarantee.

External insulation cladding

This is by far the best method for overall effectiveness. This would involve having the wall insulated from outside by a builder or insulation company. Insist on having a vapour barrier included. If it's an insulation company they will automatically take into consideration a vapour barrier if required. Reputable insulation companies which do this work are BCA Insulation tel 01501 825682, Eaga Scotland at 0800 408 1444, Miller Pattison at 01324 637857 the Mark Group at 0800 616 302 and Rheingold Contracts Ltd tel 01977 615698. The cost depends on a number of factors including how complex the job would be and the amount of insulation added and it could vary between very approximately £60 - £180 per square metre plus V.A.T. at 5%. The choice of the amount of insulation varies between 30 – 100 mm insulation boards.

Planning permission is required. There is a perception that covering up granite is not good aesthetically but it is possible to get attractive finishes to the cladding.

Internal insulation

BCA Insulation at Shotts specialise in internal insulation in addition to external cladding. They have done research trials for Historic Scotland. They are setting up a training academy in the specialist insulation of these products from July. The cost of this type of work is likely to gradually reduce as demand increases. The phone number is 01501 825682 . Their website is at <http://www.bcainsulation.co.uk/>

This company will be giving a presentation and having an exhibition at a BERI event on 21st November at the Woodend Barn. If you contact them please mention BERI and/or Mary Scott as they are keen to know how people find out about them.

If it is known there is a cavity (not rubble) of under 50 mm or variable width between an outer and inner layer of stones in the external walls

There is a product called Isothane which is suitable for some stone buildings where it is known there is a cavity (not rubble) between an outer and inner layer of stones. Isothane is generally too expensive for standard cavity wall insulation. Their niche is for sorting structural problems and this includes where standard cavity wall insulation is not possible. This product is especially suitable for areas at risk of flooding or high wind driven rain exposure conditions.

As this product is injected externally, there is minimum disruption. It does not alter the appearance of the building as the injection holes are small. The thermal insulation effect is very good. Isothane has a thermal conductivity of $0.03 \text{ W/m}^2 \text{ K}$ which is 33% better than fibreglass.

According to Historic Scotland Isothane might not be sufficiently breathable for some stone properties. It is

breathable but not very. It would probably be okay for a stone cottage with not too much cement mortar and reasonable natural air movement through the building and with no condensation dampness issues. Their other reservation (but not a condemnation) is that as this product expands, it does not always go where it is expected to go.

Isotherm/Technitherm cavity wall insulation products are covered by a 25 Year Insurance Warranty approved by OFGEM. Isothane has some BBA accreditation certificates for their spray products and roof insulation.

For information their website is www.isothane.com Telephone 01254 770190. Mention BERI when speaking to this company, to get a reduced rate.

Funding options

At present the best option is the Scottish Government's Energy Assistance Package stage 4, managed by the Energy Saving Trust. This is available towards insulation measures including wall insulation for those who qualify. Eligibility is based on age or certain qualifying benefits and/or personal circumstances. Your house is also taken into account; those without access to mains gas are more likely to qualify for stage 4. To find out if you are eligible phone 0800 512 012 and ask specifically to be assessed for the Energy Assistance Package. Allow at least 10 minutes for the call as there will be lots of questions asked.

It is worth asking your fuel company if they are involved in any solid wall insulation project.

Funding packages available for all income groups from 2013

It will be easier to have solid wall insulation done by an insulation company from 2013. The Green Deal and Eco will replace existing funding schemes from January 2013. Eco will be for those on low incomes.

The Green Deal is basically a financing scheme (similar to a mortgage) which will be attached to an insulation scheme and paid for over 10 years or more. DECC has the remit for this. Details online at http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/tackling/green_deal/green_deal.aspx

V.A.T.

The V.A.T. rate for energy saving products including insulation is 5 %. However this is applicable only if the product is supplied and fitted by a V.A.T. registered company.

Further Information

For more information refer to BERI Stone wall insulation (DIY) factsheet. Make sure you have the latest versions of all BERI factsheets.

Banchory Energy Reduction Initiative (B.E.R.I.) is a local community organisation funded by the Scottish government's Climate Challenge Fund until March 2012 and run by volunteers and part time staff. Online information at www.banchory.org see link to community projects. For more information tel 077 697 125 20 e mail beri.banchory@hotmail.co.uk Drop in advice sessions at Banchory Town Hall Mondays and Fridays 10.30 – 12.30

