

External wall insulation quality alert: whole-surface solution

Better Energy Homes programme
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Introduction

SEAI inspectors have identified a number of homes under the Better Energy Homes programme where only a portion of the home has been adequately insulated. In some cases, homeowners have had their grants declined and contractors have faced de-registration as a result.

To avoid similar outcomes, we would like to draw your attention to the following requirements which must be satisfied on all external wall insulation works:

Whole-surface solution



For insulation works, an optimal whole-surface solution must be installed where physically and economically feasible. In the case of wall insulation, this comprises the insulation of *all* external (heat loss) walls of the home.

It is important to remind homeowners of the difference between affordability and economic viability. Where a homeowner indicates that they cannot afford a whole-element solution, this does not diminish the viability of the installation and is not an acceptable reason to not complete a whole-surface solution.

Partial solutions are only acceptable in exceptional circumstances and must be detailed in the Declaration of Works (DOW) form.

Mixed measures

Where mixed-measure solutions are installed, (e.g. part cavity insulation, part external insulation), this must be detailed on the DOW and relevant wall areas included. The grant application must be for the greatest measure by wall area and only one wall grant will be paid.

Where the non-grant aided insulation works are being carried out by another supplier, you must not sign the DOW until all works are completed and full coverage has been achieved.



Pre-existing insulation

External walls must be properly assessed before works commence to establish if there is already insulation present in the home. Where some of the wall insulation is pre-existing, a grant can be claimed for further insulation works provided a whole-surface solution is achieved and the walls already insulated meet the required U-values.

In all cases, U-value calculations must be carried out to ensure achievement of the scheme requirements ($0.27 \text{ W/m}^2\text{K}$).

Further resources

For further information, please refer to the [Domestic Technical Standards & Specification](#), Section 6.2, the [Contractors Code of Practice](#), Section 5.1 and the [Homeowner's Application Guide](#), Section 2.2.

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